

Walking Itineraries

8 Llanfoist



Information

Where is it?

Llanfoist is just south of Abergavenny. Start at the Llanfoist Crossing car park NP7 9LP on B4246. Explorer Map OL13 Landranger Map 161 Grid Reference: SO 286 133. It is marked with blue P symbol.

Distance

4.25km (2.5.miles)

Time

Allow up to 2½ hours

Terrain

The first section of the walk along the railway line is accessible by mobility scooter or wheelchair. The whole of the walk has reasonably easy terrain with level canal paths and tarmac railway path. There is only one section of elevation through the zigzag connection from the railway path to the canal path.

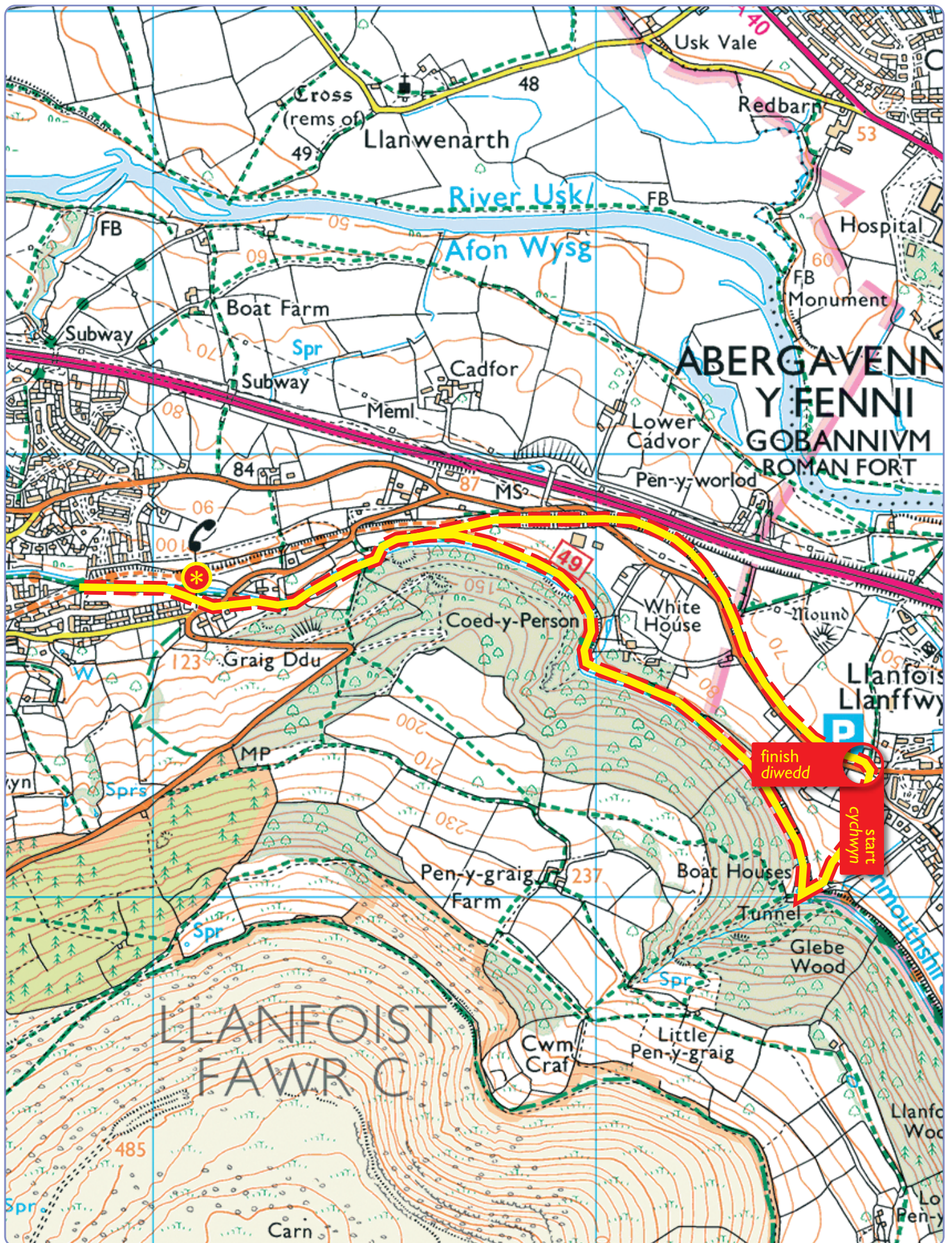
Grade Easy.

Please note

Trails can become slippery due to adverse weather conditions. Please take extra care when walking. Suitable footwear, sturdy shoes or boots with a good grip, are best worn at all times. The bridge crossing the canal (Grid reference SO 275 138) is uneven with potentially slippery cobbles. Take care near the water.

This is a walk along the industrial pathways of canal and railway. Both now provide a tranquil forested walk; the woodland along the canal bank is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

The canal, built between 1797 and 1812, was originally constructed to transport coal, lime and agricultural products and also used extensively by ironmasters and industrialists as their main transport network. The raw iron ore was carried up the canal from Newport to Llanfoist Wharf and then by tram road to the iron works. The trams returned loaded with iron. The wharfs at Llanfoist and Govilon were important interchange points linking the canal to the local horse drawn tram roads. Warehouses used for storing cargo in readiness for transport by barge can still be seen today. The canal transport network was eventually replaced by the railways. This rail network was part of the Abergavenny to Brynmawr railway which started in 1860 and reached Brynmawr in 1862, finally ending with its last public service in 1958.



1 Start at Llanfoist Crossing car park, grid reference SO 286 133. There is no charge at this car park. Exit from the car park onto the path that follows the old railway line. Keep walking until you see a zigzagging path on your left which will take you up onto the Brecon and Monmouth canal. Midway up the path you could look for the geocache #4 Zigga zagga (GCNA9B).

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2 At the top of the zig zag path you will see the canal in front of you. Turn right and follow the path. Eventually you will need to cross a bridge to the other side of the canal.

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3 After crossing the bridge turn right and follow the path to another bridge. *This point can be used to shorten the walk, you can access the road from the canal and arrange a minibus pick up here. Walk under the bridge and carry on until you see the wharf basin for mooring canal boats.

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4 Grid reference SO 271 136. Govilon Wharf. From 1805-1809 this was the end point of the Brecon to Monmouth canal. The warehouse still stands and is used as offices by the Canal and River Trust who have responsibility for the canal. Retrace your steps back along the canal. Do not go down the zigzag link to the railway line, but continue along the canal path until you reach Llanfoist wharf.

5 Grid reference SO 285 130. Llanfoist wharf. Descend the steps and take a short detour to an information board and a reconstructed section of Hill's Tramroad originally built in 1820. The boathouse here still stands and is protected as a Grade 2 listed building. Retrace your steps back through the tunnel and continue down the hill back to the car park and the start of your walk.

Variation Can be walked in reverse.

To shorten Arrange a pick up at the bridge near Govilon wharf (Grid reference SO 271 136). This shortens the walk to 2km/1.2miles. Allow 1hr:

If you would like more of a challenge or prefer to use public transport a longer walk (9.1km) is available here:

www.mediafiles.thedms.co.uk/Publication/MW-Mon/cms/pdf/13-abergavenny-to-govilon-final.pdf

Activities suitable on this route

Journey sticks, colour palettes, geocaching.

There are three geocaches available along the route: #4 Zigga zagga (GCNA9B),

#3 hole in the... (GC4NA8K), Cousins cache Isaac (GC2X63G), birdwatching, photography.

