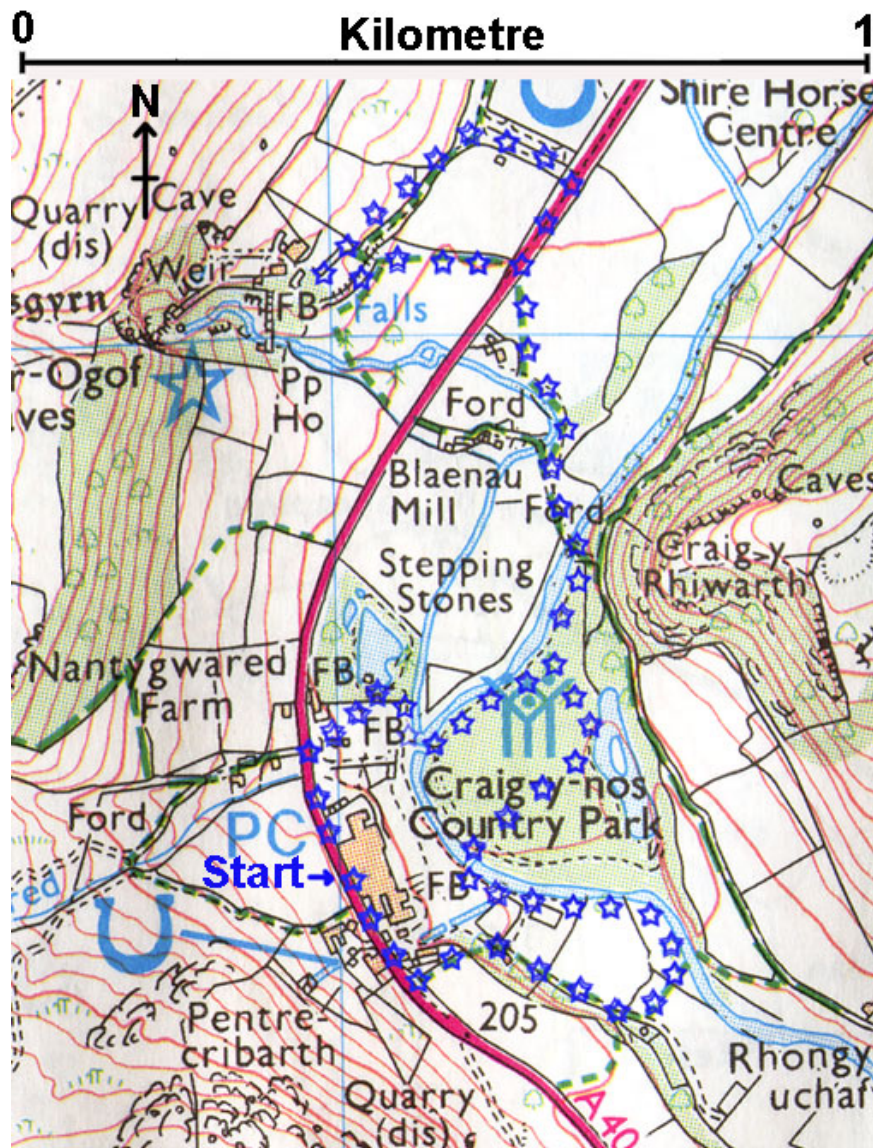


AROUND CRAIG-Y-NOS

Starting from Craig-y-nos Castle, Grid Ref: SN 840153

A walk around the historic grounds of Craig-y-nos Country Park and a visit to Dan-yr-Ogof Caves



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From the entrance to Craig-y nos castle on the A4067, turn left and head South for 150 metres to a wooden gate on your left beside the car park to the Castle. Be careful here as there is no pavement but you can walk some of the way on a narrow grass verge.



Craig-y-nos Castle

Turn left through the gate and continue North-Easterly to pass through a kissing gate and then descend a zigzag path to arrive beside a recently renovated Pavilion. This was originally the Croquet and Tennis lawn of the Castle.



The Pavillion

Turn right in front of the Pavilion and head SE to a track on the corner of the lawn. Go through a hunting gate and after 10 metres turn left through another wooden gate. Bear right here alongside a wire fence and carry straight on through some beech trees, ignoring a way-marked path on the right.

At the far end of the field, turn left and walk beside a fence to come to a stile, which leads down to the river. Turn left before the stile and continue Northerly, along the edge of a hay meadow. Look for a plaque commemorating the planting of an oak tree in 1914 on your right. Go through an ornate white Iron Gate (which has a date of 1881 on it) and continue to follow the River Tawe upstream to a white Iron Bridge, which contains the initials "A P" within the railings.



Bridge over River Tawe

Cross the bridge and continue straight-on North-Easterly, through a Rhododendron tunnel to emerge at a wooden seat by a large, shallow pond. Turn left here and then bear right across some duck-boarding.

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After the boarding, tread across some concrete slabs and two slatted wooden bridges to pass through a wooded area. At some wooden stepping-stones, turn right onto a main gravel track heading North.

At a wooden fence by a notice board, go left, either across stepping-stones or the wooden bridge in front of you. Be careful, as the stepping-stones can be slippery in wet weather. Go straight ahead at a gate (or stile) and bear right at a copse as the wire fence goes off to the left. After 30 metres you will see an old ford across the river Llynfell, which is too deep to cross on foot now. Keep straight on to a gate/stile and 20 metres later turn left to walk beside the river on a permissive path.



The Stepping Stones

Continue over some duck-boarding and pass beside a pond to your right and look for a stile with a finger-post which is beside the main road. Cross the A4067, with caution, and turn right to walk up the grass verge beside the road until you come to the driveway to Dan-yr Ogof Caves.

Turn left here towards the caves and view the rare-breed farm on your right, if you wish, before turning left and ascending the short hill to the Caves.



Entrance to National Showcave Centre

Various attractions are available at the Caves as are refreshments and souvenirs. After viewing the Caves, descend the hill, keeping to the right-hand side of the car park and look for a way-marked footpath and stile down some stone steps. Cross the stile and proceed straight ahead across a field with standing stones in it, keeping a stone wall to your left to arrive at a metal stile which will lead you to the A4067 again

Cross the main road and retrace your steps by the pond, across the duck-boarding, then the footbridge or stepping stones and into the rear entrance of the Park. Keep to the main gravel track, which turns grassy but follows the river Tawe downstream. At the confluence with the river Llynfell, bear right across an oak footbridge and right again to walk upstream of the Llynfell. After 50 metres turn left and at the Duck Pond turn left again to arrive at the Country Park car park, where there is a National Park Information Office. Here you can view an exhibition of the history of the area, and purchase souvenirs, maps and National Park publications. Exit from the main gate to the A4067, turn left and left again to re-enter the Castle grounds.



The Oak Footbridge