

Pant-yr-Ochain and Gresford, Wrexham



Moderate Terrain

4 miles
Circular
1.5 to 2
hours

170114



Access Notes



1. The walk has just a few gentle climbs and descents. The paths are generally firm but can get muddy in winter and after prolonged rain. Some of the paths are quite narrow and can be a little overgrown so shorts are not recommended (unless you're immune to nettles!).
2. There are a couple of sections of road walking and you will also need to cross a dual carriageway so take care of traffic at these points.
3. There is one stile (with a dog-sized gap alongside) on route plus a number of very tight kissing gates – be prepared to breathe in!
4. There was no livestock on route when we walked but the grassy slopes have been used to graze sheep in the past, so take care with dogs.

The Pant is a picture-postcard manor house with a long sweeping drive and majestic trees, overlooking a small lake surrounded by hills and hollows.

A 4 mile circular pub walk from the Pant-yr-Ochain in Gresford, Wrexham. The walking route performs a simple loop, following a quiet lane up to the centre of the village and then joining a path through open fields giving lovely views across the surrounding hills.

Getting there

Gresford is located just north of Wrexham. The walk starts and finishes at the Pant-yr-Ochain pub, which is on Old Wrexham Road, south of the village centre. The pub has its own large car park alongside.

Approximate post code LL12 8TY.

Walk Sections



Start to Vicarage Lane



Leave the pub car park, following the entrance lane back to the road, taking a moment to appreciate the scale of the estate that would have originally been attached to the pub when it was a manor house.

There has been a building here since at least the thirteenth century but the current structure originally dates from the 1530s. The name Pant-yr-Ochain means 'the hollow of lamentation', which is hardly an appropriate name for a building devoted to eating and drinking. Originally it was called Pant Locyn, meaning 'Locyn's hollow', Locyn being a popular medieval Welsh Christian name. Nothing is known of the Locyn after whom Pant-yr-Ochain is named, but he may have been one of the early Welsh settlers who came to the area in the early middle ages.

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At the T-junction (alongside the old Gate Lodge), turn right along the lane, Old Wrexham Road, which is lined with beautiful old hedgerows providing a haven for lots of wildlife. Keep ahead (taking care of any traffic) through the vehicle width restriction and on the right you'll see The Flash, a large lake. The artificial lake covers about 50,000 square metres and is used for sailing and water sports and is also a haven for wildfowl.

At the fork in the road, keep right signed to Gresford. Follow the quiet lane passing a handful of properties and several horse paddocks. Continue all the way to the junction with traffic lights at the end of Old Wrexham Road. Take particular care at this junction as there are no pavements. Turn sharp right into Vicarage Lane.



1 → 2 Vicarage Lane to Lake



Keep ahead passing Gresford Branch Library on the right and then, beyond the village houses, you'll pass the gated entrance for Trewythen Hall on the left. Continue beyond the national speed limit signs, with a large open field to the right. At the end of this field, turn right down a narrow fenced public footpath.

Pass through a kissing gate and you'll emerge into an open field. Keep straight ahead, staying close to the right-hand hedge and pass through a kissing gate set within a hedge gap at the opposite side. Immediately after this gate turn left, following the left-hand edge of this next field (being used to grow tall majestic sweetcorn plants when we passed through).

Cross the make-shift stile half way along (take care as this is a little wobbly) and keep ahead along the left-hand boundary. At the end of the field the path swings a little left to reach a kissing gate. Go through this gate and follow the path as it swings right through a section of scrub.

The path soon runs close to a wire fence on the right, with open fields beyond. Take a moment to appreciate the views which stretch out across the hills to the west. Pass through a further kissing gate and continue on the wider path with the fence running on the left. Beyond the grass banks is a quarry extracting sand and gravel. (The quarry and its fencing/tracks are a moving feast so if the directions from this point don't match the actual gates/paths exactly, don't worry, you just need to keep on the footpath, heading in a fairly straight line south).

At the top of the slope pass through the wooden gate alongside the wide metal gate into an open field. Keep straight ahead following the fence on the left. The field narrows almost to a point, pass through the kissing gate here to join the wide fenced grass track. On your right, beyond the hedges, you'll see glimpses of a pretty sunken lake.

2 → 3 Lake to End

The grass track takes you, via a kissing gate, to a crossroads with a tarmac track. Do NOT take the footpath opposite, instead turn right along the tarmac track which soon narrows to a fenced stone path. The path then widens to become a tarmac path between old hedgerows, the banks of which are riddled with rabbit holes.

Keep ahead as the path widens once again to become a tarmac lane, Barker's Lane. Follow the lane as it swings right and you'll come to a fork. Fork left and a few paces later pass through the staggered barrier to reach the main A5156 dual carriageway. Cross over the road with extreme care, using the designated crossing point. Don't be tempted to rush, it is best to take your time and wait for a suitable gap in the traffic.

At the far side pass through the staggered barrier and follow the tarmac slope which leads you to a residential road. Cross over to join the pavement and bear right along the road. The road continues over the brow of a small hill and then gently descends, affording you more great views across the surrounding hills. Continue past the community school on the right and some distance later you'll come to a small roundabout.

Turn right here, onto the cycleway signed to Rossett. At the end of the track swing right and then left to join the steps up to the footbridge across the dual carriageway. Come down the steps at the far side and turn right along the lane, Old Wrexham Road. You are now on the home straight, after just a short distance you'll come to the Pant-yr-Ochain for some well-deserved refreshments.

Disclaimer

This walking route was walked and checked at the time of writing. We have taken care to make sure all our walks are safe for walkers of a reasonable level of experience and fitness. However, like all outdoor activities, walking carries a degree of risk and we accept no responsibility for any loss or damage to personal effects, personal accident, injury or public liability whilst following this walk. We cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies that result from changes to the routes that occur over time. Please let us know of any changes to the routes so that we can correct the information.

Walking Safety

For your safety and comfort we recommend that you take the following with you on your walk: bottled water, snacks, a waterproof jacket, waterproof/sturdy boots, a woolly hat and fleece (in winter and cold weather), a fully-charged mobile phone, a whistle, a compass and an Ordnance Survey map of the area. Check the weather forecast before you leave, carry appropriate clothing and do not set out in fog or mist as these conditions can seriously affect your ability to navigate the route. Take particular care on cliff/mountain paths where steep drops can present a particular hazard. Some routes include sections along roads – take care to avoid any traffic at these points. Around farmland take care with children and dogs, particularly around machinery and livestock. If you are walking on the coast make sure you check the tide times before you set out.

