

Glasfryn and Gwysaney, Mold, Flintshire



Challenging Terrain

5 miles
Circular
2.5 hours

200114



Access Notes



1. There are several climbs and descents throughout and the route follows a mixture of stone tracks and grass field/woodland paths, the latter of which can get quite muddy so good waterproof boots are a must.
2. There are a couple of sections of road walking so take care of any traffic.
3. There are several kissing gates plus 7 stiles to negotiate and some of the stiles are enclosed with wire fencing so dogs may need a lift over.
4. Some of the fields are likely to be holding sheep and horses so take care with dogs.

Glasfryn is a great Arts and Crafts pub which attracts plenty of locals and visitors and has stunning views from its sunny terrace.

A 5 mile circular pub walk from Glasfryn in Mold, Flintshire. The walking route climbs high into the surrounding hills, passing through the beautiful Gwysaney Estate before descending into the nearby village of Soughton and on back to the pub. It's a really rewarding walk taking you through classic Welsh hillsides and valleys.

Getting there

Mold is located in Flintshire, just a few miles west of Chester along the A55. The walk starts and finishes from the Glasfryn pub on Raikes Lane. The pub has its own large car park alongside.

Approximate post code **CH7 6LR**.

Walk Sections



Start to Blackbrook Road



Leave the pub car park onto Raikes Lane and turn right along the pavement. Take the first road on the right, directly opposite the civic centre. Follow this quiet lane for some distance, taking care of any traffic as there are no pavements.

In the gaps within the hedge on the left you'll have great views of the rolling hills to the south. After passing Blackbrook Farm on the left, you'll emerge to a T-junction with Blackbrook Road. If you glance to the left you'll see the small stream, Black Brook, from which the road takes its name.

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1 → 2 Blackbrook Road to New Houses



Cross over to take the footpath opposite, passing through a wide wooden gate to join a stone track heading uphill. Some distance up the hill, pass through another gate which sits alongside the gated entrance to Tan-y-Wal.

At the top of the slope the track swings left passing the gates to Gwysaney Hall which you can see across the lawns to the right. Gwysaney Hall is Jacobean in the main having been built in 1603, but its wonderful front door bears the date 1640 and the initials RAD. Apparently the Davies-Cooke family, owners for the last 450 years, can retrace their origins to the royal house of Powys possibly as far back as 1200. The financial pressures of the estate forced the family to put it on the market in 2010.

Keep straight ahead down a short slope and then follow the track as it swings right with open fields to the left and the fenced grounds of the hall on the right. Pass through a gateway alongside a cattle grid, with a pair of cottages called New Houses to the left.

2 → 3 New Houses to Rhosesmor Road



Go straight ahead on the track heading into woodland, with a large pond to the left. Beyond the pond turn right at the fork and pass through a kissing gate to continue on this smaller track. The next kissing gate leads you onto a grassy path through a section of woodland with an immaculate stone wall on the right.

Follow this wide path heading steadily downhill, leaving behind the stone wall which swings away to the right. Beyond the woodland, pass through the gate ahead (or use the stile alongside) to continue in the same direction along the right-hand edge of a large hillside field. Take time here to enjoy the views which spread over 180 degrees.

In the bottom right hand corner of this field, turn right through two gates and keep straight ahead on the stone track passing Quarry Farm to the right. Follow the main track winding fairly steeply downhill, ignoring any smaller footpaths into the forest. At the bottom of the hill the track swings right and then strikes out along a level straight section. The track will lead you out to a T-junction with Rhosesmor Road.

3 → 4 Rhosesmor Road to Soughton



Turn left along this lane with Black Brook running once again down to the right. As the road swings hard left, turn right onto a footpath signed to Soughton. The path is part of Wat's Dyke Way.

Wat's Dyke is a 40 mile long earthwork running through the northern Welsh Marches from Basingwerk Abbey on the River Dee estuary, passing to the east of Oswestry and onto Maesbury in Shropshire. The date of the construction of the dyke is much disputed, but a likely context for construction is around 820AD, when the Mercian King, Coenwulf, was fighting against a resurgent Welsh threat.

Cross the footbridge and stile and follow the grass path ahead staying close to the fence on the right. As the grassy bank on the left gives way, keep ahead along the right-hand edge of this field, with a number of electrically fenced horse paddocks to the left and the stables to the right.

Continue on this rough path as it climbs fairly steeply to reach a stile into a sheep pasture. Cross this stile, and keep ahead on the path between the grass banks. Two further stiles lead you through a small enclosure containing a lake and out into a wide tree-lined grass track. Pass a couple of properties on the right, after which a final stile takes you back out to Rhosesmor Road.

Turn left along the lane and follow it to the end, taking care of any traffic. At the T-junction with the main road, cross over with care and turn right along the pavement. Take the first road turning on the left, signed to Soughton Hall and Alltami. After passing a cottage on the left and the fenced woodland, Coed Andrew, on the right, turn right through a kissing gate to join a fenced path. The path dog-legs right and then left through a kissing gate and continues to emerge out to a residential road within Soughton.

4 → 5 Soughton to End



Keep straight ahead down to the crossroads, and keep ahead again down the road named Wat's Dyke Way. Just before the end of the road, turn right into Ffordd Las and then turn right again

into Maes Gwalia. Continue to the end of this no through road where you'll find a footpath signed off to the right. As you emerge to the next road, cross over and turn left and, after passing just six houses, turn right down the next signed footpath.

This path leads you to the next residential road. Follow this ahead and then steadily swinging left. At the T-junction cross over and turn right for a few paces, then take the first left, Manor Park. At the end of this road join the tarmac fenced footpath ahead. Continue until you reach a stile on the left and cross over this into a rough pasture. (This wasn't holding any animals when we passed through but there was evidence that horses had been present recently!).

Keep straight ahead across this rough pasture on the obvious path. In the bottom left-hand corner you'll come to a stile which leads you out to the main road. Turn left for a few paces and then cross over with care to turn right into Raikes Lane. At the T-junction turn left and follow this hedge-lined tarmac lane. There are no pavements on this stretch so take care of any traffic. After some distance you will pass Mold's theatre on the left and, as the road widens out, you'll come to Glasfryn on the right for some well-earned hospitality.

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.

