



Penallt Circular Walks – Buzzard

Length:	4.7 km; total ascent: 180 m
Time:	65 to 85 minutes
Grade:	Two stiff climbs, several stiles
Starting point:	Pentwyn Green, Penallt's village green situated above the Bush Inn.

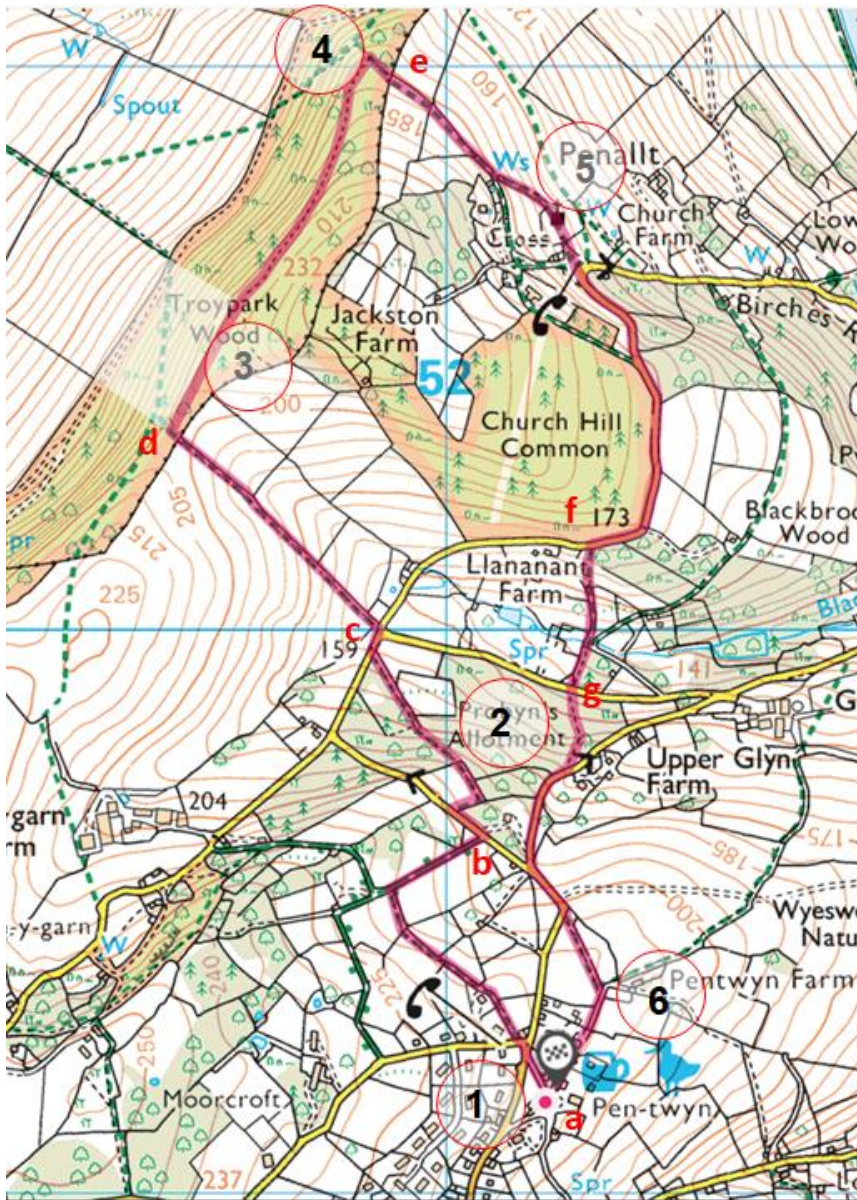
The route takes in ancient woodland, the Penallt Old Church and spectacular views over the Vale of Usk and the Wye Valley.



THE ROUTE

- a. From the village green (1), and with your back to The Bush Inn, take the tarmac road on the right for about 100 m to a T junction with the Old Baptist Chapel opposite. Cross the stile to the left of the Chapel (FP post) and follow the path over one more stile to a T-junction with a lane - waymarkers (WM). Turn right and follow the lane to a T-junction with a metalled road.
- b. Turn left and after about 100 m turn right over a stile (FP post) following the edge of the field (ahead and then left) until you cross a stile into a bluebell wood – Probyn's Allotment (2). Continue downwards to a stile and metalled road where you turn right (FP post).
- c. In 40 metres, and at a road T-junction, take a stile into a field on the left (FP post) and, keeping the hedge on your right, ascend the field (cattle grazing in the summer) to a stile at the top which you cross (WM).
- d. Turn right immediately and, ignoring a path coming up steeply from the left, continue in the same direction and admire the fine panorama (3) before entering a wood after about 400 m, ignoring a well-defined path going right up the hill just beforehand. Our path is not registered as a public footpath but this is Open Access land and is therefore accessible. The path starts to descend over the last 200 m to reach a junction with a public footpath where you turn right up a short hill (4).
- e. Continue straight through fields and through a gate with the Wye Valley below to your left. Then, at a fork in the track, ignore a gate and take the LH path, keeping a hedge on your right, down to a stone stile giving access to Penallt Old Church (5). The path skirts to the right round the church and then, from the main door, enters an avenue to the lych gate. Cross this via a stone stile and carry on straight ahead bearing right along a metalled road.
- f. In about 700 m, pass Sunny Bank Farm and reach the "coffin stone" on your left where you turn left over a stone stile (FP post) following yellow markers (WM) through a gate, down through a sloping paddock and into a narrow lane via a pedestrian gate. Cross the stream at the bottom of this lane and cross the stile ahead and then up to a metalled road.
- g. Take the footpath across this road (unsigned) up through Probyn's Allotment again (2) and turn right at the top (FP post), taking the metalled road up and left at a T-junction. Take the stile into a field where the road bends right (FP post) and follow the left edge of the field to a gate and stile where, turning right along a lane (left leads to Pentwyn Farm (6)) leads back to the village green (1).

MAP/POINTS OF INTEREST



1. Pentwyn Green is officially designated as a village green and extends for a while down the lane towards Pentwyn Farm (on the return route). Just below lies the Bush Inn.
2. Probyn's Allotment, an ancient wood with fine bluebells in the Spring.
3. The scarp slope overlooks the Vale of Usk and was clear-felled in the mid 2010s. It has been kept open by volunteers since then who have cleared parts to allow fine views towards the Brecon Beacons and the Black Mountains (see diagram at the beginning).
4. Troypark Wood is managed by Natural Resources Wales and is ancient woodland. Just beyond (4) is a pair of old sandstone quarries of relatively recent date, possibly used for the manufacture of grindstones, and worth a quick visit.
5. Penallt Old Church is a Grade 1 listed building dated from the late 13th/early 14th century, built from old red sandstone. The inside has a barrel-shaped ceiling from the 16th century. The date "1539" is carved on the door in the porch and may still be made out.
6. Wyeswood Common comprises some 144 acres of hay meadows owned by Gwent Wildlife Trust. Lying just off the route of the path, it provides an ideal optional extension, especially in early summer when markers guide visitors through fields abundant with orchids and many other wild flowers.