


The linear route follows the Garw River from Bleangarw along cycle path 884 to Pontycymer and back. The circular route takes you for a walk through the woodlands offering views of Bleangarw before joining the linear route to Pontycymer.

How Far?

 Return linear route 4km/2.5 miles
Circular Route 6km/3.75 miles

How long?

 2 hours with smaller children

We recommend to plan for 2 hours for all ages in order to savour the views and make time for exploring!



Before you go:



You may like to use OS Explorer map: 166 Rhondda & Merthyr Tydfil to accompany your walk.



Only the linear cycle path route is accessible to pushchairs.



You will be sharing tracks with mountain bikes & the cycle path with all cyclists. Please be aware that they will be passing and that mountain bikes can appear at speed on the hill side for the circular route.



Dog friendly, though parts cross farmland with livestock so please follow the Countryside Code and be mindful to keep dogs on their lead when appropriate.



Make a day of it!



Cycle from Bleangarw by the river Garw or drive a short distance to visit Bryngarw Country Parc. Woodlands, wetlands and heaps of activities to suit families of all ages. The Parc has been awarded Green Flag Award status and Green Heritage Accreditation making it heralded one of the best green spaces for demonstrating environmental and heritage conservation in the UK.

Pop along to find another 10 of the 15 Keepers Statues who provide an interactive experience using sculpture, music and themes from Welsh mythology to bring the story of Bryngarw's wildlife and landscape to life.

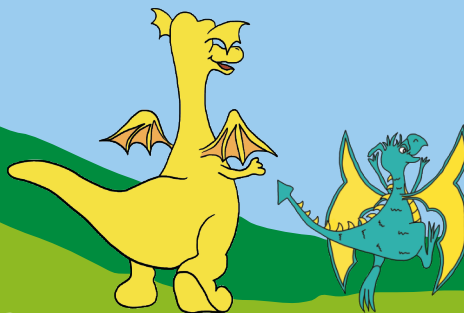
We are Ramblers Cymru and we're a membership organisation here to help everyone enjoy walking. We've created these leaflets to help you and your family to explore the outdoors on foot. We hope you enjoy walking as much as we do. To find out a bit more about us and for walking routes go to:

www.ramblers.org.uk/familytrails

Find us on:



www.facebook.com/groups/familytrails



First Cymru bus services 72 and 73 from Bridgend



Mama Tan's cafe: 17-19 Oxford Street, Pontycymer
Pontycymer Community Cafe - 15 Oxford St, Pontycymer



Parc Rhanbarthol
y Cymoedd



Valleys
Regional Park

Design & Illustration ©Arry Cain 2021

The Ramblers' Association is a registered charity (England & Wales no. 1093577, Scotland no. SC039799) Mae Cymdeithas y Cerddwyr yn elusen gofrestredig (Lloegr a Chymru rhif 1093577, yr Alban SC039799)

SCRAMBLERS!



Family Trails

The Families of Blaengarw
Parc Calon Lân



Return linear route 4km/2.5 miles
Circular Route 6km/3.75 miles



Parc Calon Lân Linear/ Parc Calon Lân
Circular for children aged 4 and above.
The walks will lead you through industrial landscapes now covered in heather and gorse.

Our Family Trails are a selection of lesser known routes which local families have shared with Ramblers Cymru to celebrate the unique landscapes of the South Wales Valleys Regional Park.



Start: Parc Calon Lân

1

START - ST 899 931

Leave car park through stone pillars to join the path. Turn right and cross the bridge on your left. Looking down the river from the bridge you may see the distinctive Dipper (*Cinclus cinclus*) which is a bird that lives on fast flowing rivers and streams. You may see them on the rocks and along the banks with their white throat and breast and dark body. They bob up and down, hence the name Dipper. From here, for a walk with a level surface, turn left and follow the wildlife packed path for a return journey to Pontcymmer Lakes. If you wish to follow the circular trail then turn right.

2

ST 899 934

Turn left to take the trail to the path on the next level and follow the wider track passing by the cycle path's tyre gate.

3

ST897 933

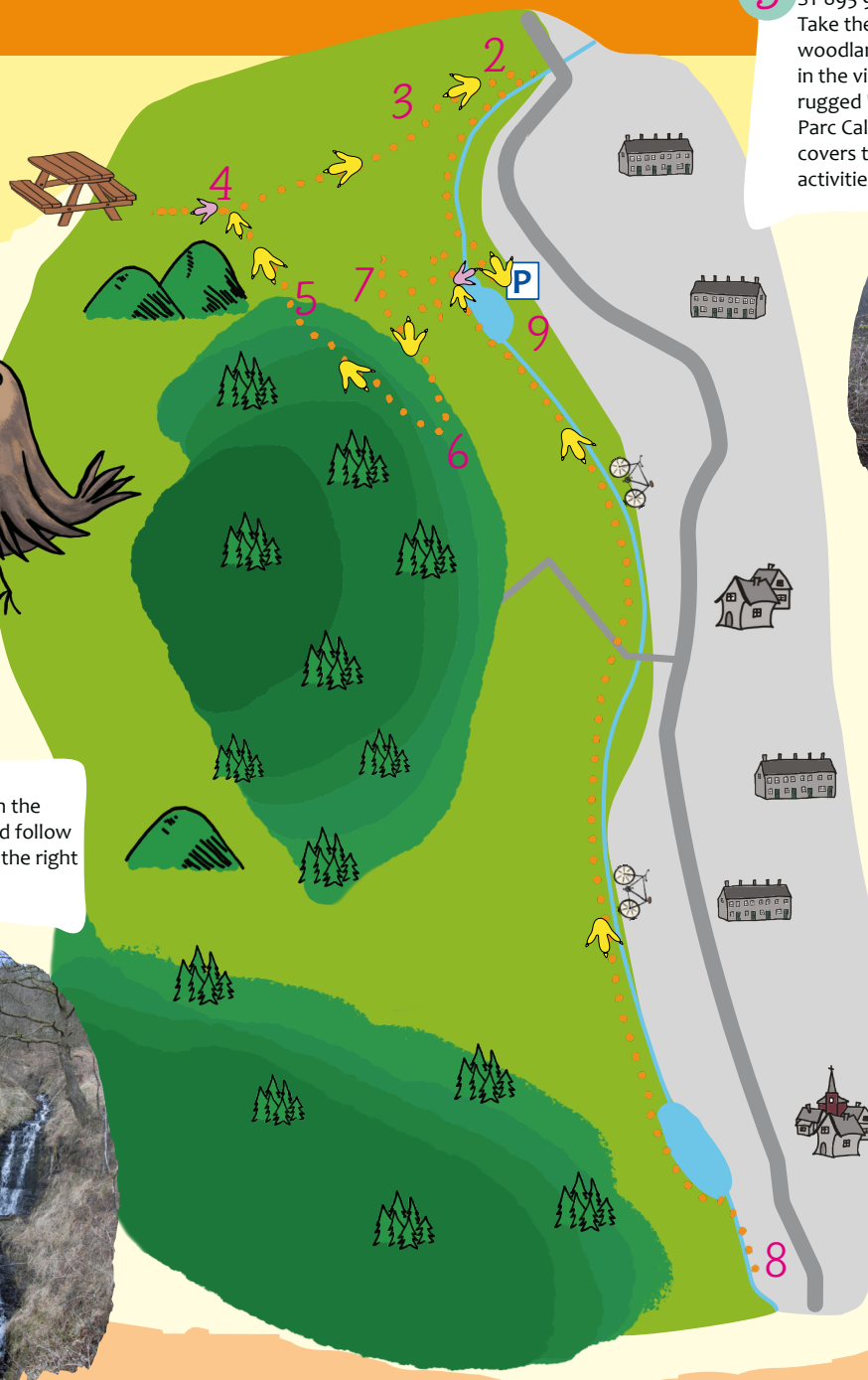
Take the right fork passing with the acorn sculpture on your left and follow the wider track further to take the right track at the next fork.



4

ST 895 932

Look for the narrow trail to your right that will detour you to a pretty spot for a picnic or continue ahead. The Parc has been named after "Calon Lân" a Welsh hymn, the words of which were written in the 1890s by Daniel James while he lived here in Blaengarw and is sung to a tune by John Hughes. Firmly established as a rugby anthem, associated with the Welsh rugby union, the lyrics reveal the benefits of a pure heart, not tainted by greed.



5

ST 895 931

Take the right fork up the hill through woodland followed by open land taking in the views of Bleangarw meaning the rugged 'front' or 'head' of the valley. Parc Calon Lân is still a young park that covers the area of old coal mining activities.

6

ST 898 928

Here is The Song Keeper. One of 15 oak sculptures installed to celebrate green spaces across the County of Bridgend. Follow the track around through the woodland descending to waypoint 7.



7

ST 897 930

Take the right fork to zig zag your way back down the hill to join the path that you set out on originally. Here you can cross the bridge back to the car park or you can extend your walk by turning right onto Cycle path no 884 and go and find the lake at Pontcymmer.

8

ST 903 915

You may like to hop off the track here passing the Co-op and have lunch or a snack in one of Pontcymmer's cafes or pubs before returning to your start point taking the path back keeping the River Garw to your right.

9

ST 899 9315
Walk end.

