

HISTORY TRAIL 2

Clyne Woods East Side

OVERVIEW

This is a circular walk through Sketty Gates to the Purple Post.

Distance: 2 miles

Start Point: The bend of Rhyd y Defaid Drive, Sketty, SA2 8AH. Park on the road.

Note: Includes two sets of steps, uneven terrain and can be muddy. Not suitable for buggies or wheelchairs. Consider other users and observe the Countryside Code.

Using this guide

- All timings are approximate.
- **Track** indicates an unmade surface.
- **Path** indicates a metalled surface (tarmac).
- **Bold text** is directions.
- *Italics text* is information.

- 1. The walk begins opposite this fingerpost. Walk down the path between the houses (numbers 111 and 113).**



- 2. Walk through the gates.**

Recently restored by CVCP & Swansea Council, these gates were once an entrance to the parkland of Sketty Park House, a residence of the industrial Morris family. Behind the fence on your right, once stood Hafod Lodge.

- 3. Walk for a few minutes down through the beech wood and just before the bridge over Nant Yr Olchfa, turn left following the signpost towards Blackpill.**





- 4.** *The ruins on your right are of New Mill Farm, which are undergoing renovation.*



- 5.** *After the farm ruins, the path dips down and then up. At the top of the rise, turn first right off the Shared User Path (just beyond this counter) onto a narrow track.*



- 6.** *Follow this track for about 10 minutes (ignoring all tracks to the right) until you reach a purple post.*

You are now walking on the old landfill site and as you progress you will notice rubbish beneath your feet poking through the soil. Nature has taken this area back.

- 7.** *At the purple post turn left. As you approach the purple post listen for the sound of water - you will soon see the Clyne River.*



- 8.** *Cross the stepping stones over the canal and follow the track right for about 5 minutes through woodland with the river on your left. As you progress you will see the canal on your right.*

- 9.** As the track bears to the right and you lose sight of the river, follow the track past the head of the manmade canal which led into the entrance of an earlier mine.

Take great care here not to fall in!



- 10.** As the track rises, you pass the site of Rhyd Y Defaid No1 mine on your left, now capped for safety. This operated from 1840 until the 1880s.

- 11.** At the top of the steps, turn right signposted Olchfa Lane / Old Brickworks.

Behind the signpost is the site of the Brickworks where for a hundred years various companies operated. All buildings and kilns were demolished in the 1960s. Then in a few yards turn left at the next sign - Old Brickworks.



- 12.** Continue until the track forks. Take the track to the right and walk down the steps.



- 13.** Continue onwards into the woodland, passing the Brickworks pond on your left.



14. When the track comes to a 'T' junction turn right and continue forward.

You are now joining the Old Carriageway which leads from Gower Road in Killay to Hafod Lodge entrance to Sketty Park.



15. As you reach this signpost on your left, pause and about 10 metres beyond the sign look into the ditch to see a piece of rail poking out.

This rail formed part of the railway which connected the Commercial Colliery to a branch of the Mumbles Railway.



16. As you continue down the Old Carriageway, pause when you come to this gate on your left.

On the opposite side of the carriageway once stood a grandstand. The last horse race held here was in 1927 and the racecourse now lies beneath many feet of rubbish in the landfill.



17. Continue forward along Old Carriageway, crossing the bridge over Nant Yr Olchfa and proceed ahead up the path to go through the gates to where you started the walk.