

HISTORY TRAIL 3

Mill Lane through to the West Side

OVERVIEW

This is a circular walk via the Ivy Tower, a sunken lane and the Brick Path.

Distance: 3 miles

Start Point: Car park at top of Mill Lane, Blackpill, SA3 5BW (free car park)

Note: Includes steep inclines and declines, 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 in the car park on the right side of Mill Lane, Blackpill, opposite this sign.**



- 2. Take the track nearest Mill Lane car park entrance, past this gate. Follow this wide track, known as the 'Top Path', upwards through woodland.**

- 3. After 2 minutes, the track levels off.**

Notice the Ivy Tower on the right, once a chimney for the arsenic works which were lower down the valley.





- 4.** *3 minutes further along the track, below on the right, you can see the remains of a discarded dram (truck that ran on rails). This may be less visible when vegetation is thicker.*



- 5.** **5 minutes further along, the track dips down and rises up again.**

Either side of the track a stream is visible as it descends beneath the track down the valley to feed the fishing lake. On the right of the track some rhododendrons are remnants of many planted by Admiral Vivian who owned the land when he lived in Clyne Castle.



- 6.** **After 5 minutes, the track emerges from the woodland. Take a smaller track to the right to curve across more open ground (though covered in bracken each side of track in summer).**



- 7.** **This narrow track takes you to a seat and a viewing point overlooking much of Swansea and beyond.** *The board by the bench indicates what you can see.*

- 8.** **After taking in the view, continue onwards for a short distance then bear left on a track to take you back to the wide track (Top Path) again. Turn right.**



9. Continue with farm fields on your left.

You will pass several gnarled old beech trees like this one.



10. *You may notice the 'Blonde on the Hill' on one of the trees on the right!*



11. Just after this point, take the track opposite on the left and follow the blue arrows on posts at regular intervals.

The other main track (Top Path) leads to Keepers Cottage.

Note: From here it takes approximately 30 minutes to walk to The Old Railway Path sign in Step 14 of this guide.



12. *Passing the old gate post (and gate) the track ahead takes you into woodland. Continue walking through the trees to descend through a 'sunken lane'.*



13. Cross a small stream and up a gentle rise to descend towards the Old Railway Path.

Notice bell pits either side of track (early coal mines).



14. At the sign, turn right towards Blackpill. Continue for 10 minutes.



15. Between a litter bin and low stone structure, take the track upwards on the right. This is the steep 'Brick Path'. The reason for its name will become evident as you ascend.



16. After climbing for 10 minutes, the track widens out. Continue up to the post with the blue arrows. Take the track on the left – the 'Middle Path'.

The other arrow up indicates the way to the 'Top Path'.



17. Continue for 20 minutes on this undulating (often muddy) track to arrive back at the car park where the walk started.

