

Charcoal Walk

This walk is designed to complement the information contained in Shirley Rippin's book ***The Charcoal Industry of Fforest Coalpit & the Grwyne Fawr Valley***, published by Abergavenny Local History Society and available from them and local outlets including Abergavenny Museum.



Start: Coed y Cerrig car park, 0.5 miles on the left after Five-Ways junction.

N. 51 53.072, W. 003 01.714

GR: SO 29393 21169

- 1 Set off on the track at the rear of the car park that leads up into the woods. Follow the track beside a small brook on your up to and over a stile.
- 2 On the other side of the stile, there is a meadow with a large (whale shaped) pond. Follow the track past the pond and go over the stile that is to the left of the private properties here (The Pant).
- 3 The permissive path continues past an orchard, and emerges onto the property's drive. Follow the drive to the lane and turn right.
- 4 The lane passes New Inn Farm. Ignore the turning to the left. After a short uphill stretch, the lane forks with a stony drover's track to the left and a concrete road to the right, take the stony track to the left.
- 5 The path narrows as it proceeds round the flank of the hillside. After about half a kilometre you will pass the ruined hamlet on the right, beyond a metal gate.
- 6 Shortly after the ruins, the track comes to a stop at a 7-bar gate that opens on to open moorland. Put any dogs on leads and go through the gate. Take the mown grassy path that bears right.

7 After a short distance the path joins the main ridgeway track. If you want to get the full view, and are feeling energetic at this point, take the path to the right of the main track that heads directly to the hilltop (and the Roman hill fort) then find your way back down to the main track. Alternatively, turn right on to the main track and follow it around to another steel gate.

8 About 300 metres after the gate there is a track to the right and a much smaller path to the left (marked with a wooden fingerpost). Take the larger track on the right. The track almost immediately narrows and can be very muddy! It goes around a farm, past some gates on both sides (at this point you may have running water underfoot) and to a junction with a larger track. At this junction there is a steel gate to the right and a rustic wooden gate ahead, go through the rustic gate.

9 Follow the way-marked, steep track through the woods. Some way marks are painted onto stones. These woods are full of charcoal hearths and coppiced trees.

10 On leaving the wood you will emerge into a meadow where the signs are fingerposts that lead you downhill to a stile and the road. Turn right and walk along the road for about 250m.

11 To your left, opposite Delwood Cottage is an unsigned track. Go up the track. Very soon you will reach the boardwalk on the right. Follow the boardwalk through the nature reserve. The boardwalk splits into two routes – take either of them; both lead you back to the car park.