



Tinkinswood Burial Chamber

Photograph © Cadw

Walk No. 46, Wenvoe

Haunted Field Walk

This walk of just 5½ miles enables one to view three features of national importance: Duffryn House with its splendid gardens and two burial chambers of considerable antiquity, Tinkinswood and St. Lythans. Add to the list the charming village of St. Nicholas and the pleasant, easy to walk terrain and one has a walk of quite wide appeal.

Distance 5½ miles (from St Nicholas) or 7 miles (from Wenvoe)

Map Explorer 151.

Parking At St. Nicholas Church, in the village, north of the main road (A48); roadside in Wenvoe.

Public Transport For St Nicholas X2 Cardiff to Bridgend.

For Wenvoe X96 or 96 Barry to Cardiff bus half hourly. Alight at the Golf Course/Garden centre.

Refreshments & Toilets Pubs in Bonvilston and Wenvoe, none on the route.

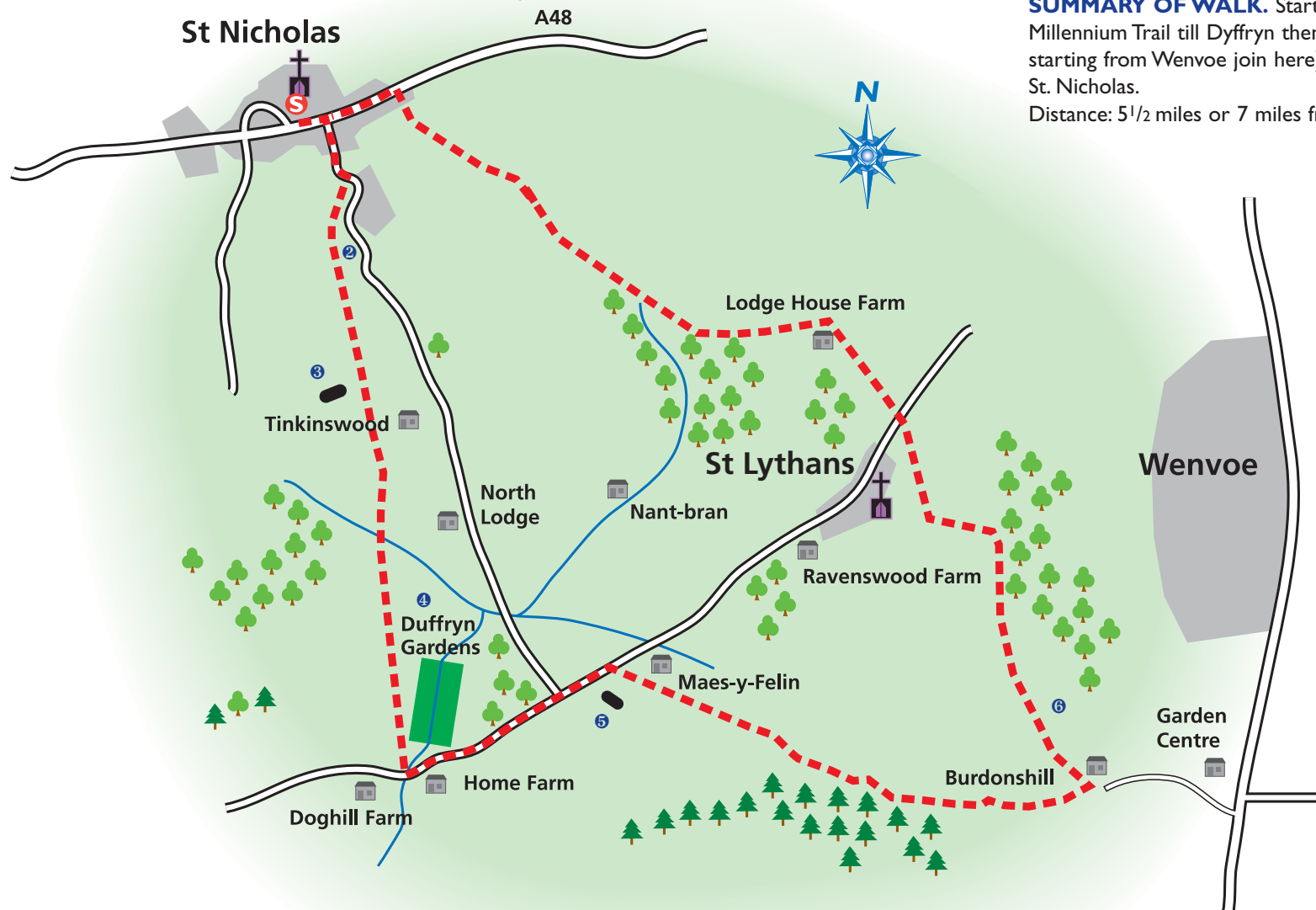
START At St. Nicholas or Wenvoe. St. Nicholas Village: Parking at St. Nicholas Church in the village north of the main road or Wenvoe: Parking on roadside in the village.

If walking from Wenvoe, the route starts near the entrance to the garden centre. Walk up the track from the main road and you will join the main circular route by the golf course at the top of Burdonshill. Then begin the route guide below at **.

SCALE (APPROX):

1 Kilometre

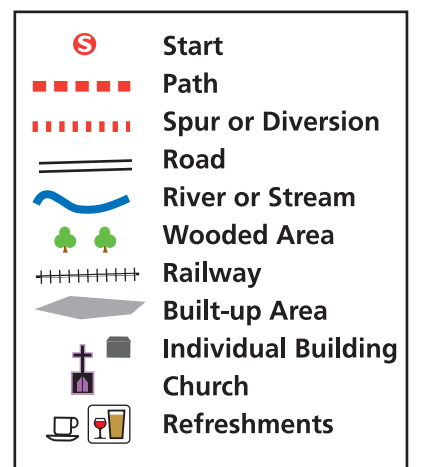
1 Mile



SUMMARY OF WALK. Starting at St. Nicholas it follows the Heritage Millennium Trail till Dyffryn then St. Lythans burial chamber, Burdonshill (those starting from Wenvoe join here) St. Lythans and Lodge Farm before returning to St. Nicholas.

Distance: 5½ miles or 7 miles from Wenvoe.

Short cut: From St. Lythans burial chamber along a narrow country lane to the village. Shortens the route by 1½ miles.



THE ROUTE

S From St. Nicholas Church Car Park
1 return to main road. Cross at traffic lights and walk down the lane towards Dyffryn. After a short distance a stone stile will be seen on your right. Cross this and go down through the cwm to a stile under a tree on your left. You pass the old quarries **2**. Continue to the next stile by a large tree. Turn right and follow the hedgeline to the next stile in the corner of field. Cross and turn left on the field edge till a fence bears left. Go right and head for the next stile which is clearly seen. The Tinkinswood burial chamber **3** is on your right with its entrance gate in the corner. Cross the stile by the gate and note the remains of a stone row in the field **4**. Continue across the field in the direction of a telegraph pole. The next stile will be in front of you. Cross and continue in the same direction to reach a stile and a small bridge to the right of the shack. Continue to the next field boundary and stile. Continue with the wall of Dyffryn House on your left **4**. This path has some lovely trees to your right. Please note there is no entrance to the house from this side. Cross another stile to reach the road by Dyffryn Farm.

Turn left then left again and follow the road. Should you wish to visit Dyffryn Gardens turn left at the next junction and walk a short distance on the road to the entrance.

Those walkers on the main route continue past the junction and turn right through the kissing gate into the so-called haunted field with the St. Lythans burial chamber **5**. There are surprising views from this field with Barry in the distance on the brow of the hill.

Should you want to cut short the walk return to road turn right and follow the country lane to St. Lythans Village. While not a busy lane there is traffic and it is narrow in parts.

For the main route, go towards the farm at the top left hand corner of the field. Cross the stile then go through farmyard. Please close all gates behind you.

Continue across a series of stiles. The ruins in the field to your right are old lime kilns **6**. Go through a small gate and continue along the edge of two fields with woods on your right. DO NOT cross the stile into the woods. Continue till you reach the clear track leading downhill on your right. Follow this for a very short distance and look for a stile in fence

on left. This stile is set back away from the track but can be clearly seen except in mid summer when the rampant vegetation means you may have to look for it.

Cross and follow an attractive little path through the woods that climbs and comes out on the edge of the golf course. Continue left to the kissing gate out onto the lane. **Those walkers coming from Wenvoe join the route here where they turn right

Turn left out of the gate and follow the track. Parts of this track are often flooded but can be passed with care. Continue with the woods on right till you come to a stile by a farm gate on your left. Cross and continue with the hedge line on your left. Note the radio masts on your right. When you reach the stone and wooden stiles by the conifers you have a choice.

Cross the stile, follow a short path then turn right to visit church **7**. The path goes over stone stiles across the churchyard. On the road turn right and walk along to Lodge Farm.

If you do not wish to visit the church, do not cross the double stiles by the conifers but turn right to cross two stiles onto the road opposite the entrance to Lodge Farm.

Walkers who have walked up the road from the St. Lythans burial chamber rejoin the main route at Lodge Farm.

Walk up the track to Lodge Farm, cross the stile on your right then left and left again so you are the other side of the house. Continue with hedge on your right to the next stile into the woods. A clear and delightful track leads to a more overgrown wooded area and a small gate on right. Do not cross but continue straight ahead through the rough woodland till you reach a waymark posts and a stile on your right. This marks the junction of four paths.

Continue in the direction you have been walking to another waymark which directs you out of the wood and to a stile in a fence. Go right towards the next stile which can be clearly seen. The path now heads towards the main road. Keep to the rough field edge till you reach a pylon on the right. The hedge has been removed at this point but continue forward. Pass end of hedge line on left and continue towards conifers and main road. Look for clear path running diagonally across the field on your left heading towards farm buildings.

This in turn leads to the main road where a left turn will return you to the village and the end of the walk.

PLACES OF INTEREST

1 ST. NICHOLAS VILLAGE

Old cottages and church.

2 REMAINS OF PREHISTORIC QUARRY

The stones for both burial chambers are believed to come from here as they are constructed from the same mudstone.

3 TINKINSWOOD BURIAL CHAMBER.

Dates back to 3,500 BC and in use till 2000 BC. Capstone considered to be the largest in Europe. Nearby stones may be remnants of a wider complex around the chamber, though legends tell they are women turned to stone for dancing on the Sabbath.

4 DYFFRYN HOUSE

(short detour from route)
 Built 1893. Grade I listed Edwardian Gardens. Present garden layout designed in 1906.

5 ST. LYTHANS BURIAL CHAMBER

Smaller than Tinkinswood and never excavated. Legends abound in the field. A saddled horse that cannot be ridden is said to be seen on moonlit nights. On Midsummer Eve expect to see the capstone twirl round three times while the stones go down to the river to bathe. Whisper to the stones on Halloween and you may get your wishes granted.

6 RUINS OF LIME KILNS

7 ST. LYTHANS CHURCH AND WELL



St Nicholas Cottages

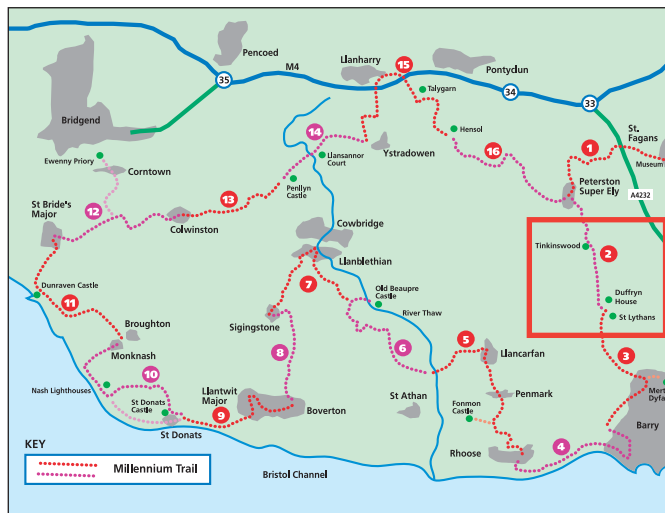
Photograph © Ray Price



Statue at Dyffryn House

Photograph © Vale of Glamorgan Council

WALK LOCATION IN RELATION TO VALEWAYS' MILLENNIUM HERITAGE TRAIL



Valeways' Millennium Heritage Trail covers a distance of over 100km, spanning over 6,000 years of history. It wends its way through a variety of beautiful landscapes. At its northern edge there are panoramic vistas of the Blaenau Morgannwg, while in the south it skirts a spectacular cliffed coastline.

The Trail is split into 16 easy to follow sections, each of which can be walked within a few hours. The surroundings are diverse, often spectacular and steeped in history.

Those who have never visited this part of Wales will enjoy walking through fertile, lowland countryside adjoining the spectacular Heritage Coast with its beautiful beaches. The route includes many fascinating historic features, from prehistoric burial chambers to magnificent castles, churches and mansions.

Valeways has published a guide to the Millennium Heritage Trail. This colourful book describes the 16 sections which make up the Trail and comes in a package with 16 separate A3 maps. The guide can be obtained from Valeways for £8.49 including post and packing.



St Lythans Church

Photograph © Vale of Glamorgan Council



Dyffryn House from the air

Photograph © Vale of Glamorgan Council

WALK FEATURES

- St Nicholas Village
- Tinkinswood Burial Chamber
- St Lythans Burial Chamber
- Dyffryn House and Gardens
- St Lythans Church and Well
- Attractive Countryside



Dyffryn House and Gardens

Photograph © Ray Price



Valeways is a registered charity working in partnership with the community to reopen existing footpaths to create a network of enjoyable circular walks across the Vale of Glamorgan, linking towns and villages to the surrounding countryside and points of interest. We are indebted to the many volunteers who give up their time freely to provide this walk for your enjoyment.



Valeways Partnership - Many thanks to the Vale of Glamorgan Council and the Countryside Council for Wales for their continued support.

Cefnogwyd gan Supported by



Valeways, Unit 7, Barry Community Enterprise Centre,
Skomer Road, Barry CF62 9DA
Telephone/Fax: 01446 749000
E-mail: info@valeways.org.uk
Website: <http://www.valeways.org.uk>

Registered Charity No. 1062031 Registered Company No. 3330088

Walk No. 46, Wenvoe The Haunted Field

Distance: 5 1/2 miles



St Lythans Burial Chamber

Photograph © Cadw

FOLLOW THE WALKER'S CODE

- Guard against all risk of fire
 - Fasten all gates
- Keep all dogs under close control
- Keep to public paths on farmland
- Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges & walls
 - Take your litter home
- Protect all wildlife, plants and trees

