

23 POWYS YSTRADFELTE & THE FOUR FALLS

▶ Distance: 6½ miles/10.3km ▶ Time: 4 hours ▶ Grade: Moderate



Heading north through the woods after point 5.

PHOTO: FIONA BARTROP

PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking Car park in Ystradfellte, CF44 9JE, grid ref SN929134

Is it for me? Footpaths along wooded valleys and gorges, passing waterfalls en route – some paths are steep, rough, muddy and slippery under foot; forest tracks and country lane.

Stiles 5 (or 3 on alternative route from pt 2)

PLANNING

Nearest town Glyn-neath

Refreshments The New Inn, Ystradfellte (closed Mon & Tues); drinks/snacks at Cwm Porth car park shop

Public toilets Cwm Porth car park

Public transport None

Maps OS Explorer OL12; Landranger 160



CHOSEN BY... FIONA BARTROP

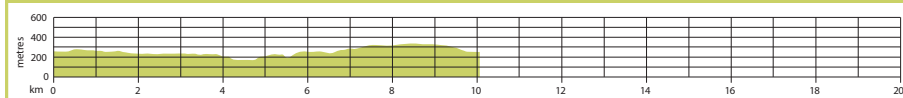
The village of Ystradfellte is situated in Waterfall Country in the south of the Brecon Beacons National Park. Here several rivers – including the Mellte and Hepste – flow down deep wooded gorges, cascading over a series of dramatic waterfalls, before joining to form the River Neath. Not far from Ystradfellte at Cwm Porth is Porth yr Ogof, the largest cave entrance in Wales, where the River Mellte disappears underground before reappearing further downstream. There are several waymarked trails, notably the Four Falls trail (incorporated in

this route), which takes in the four most popular waterfalls. The trail is marked with numbered posts and there are information panels along the way at the turn offs for the waterfalls, so you can pinpoint where you are. A Waterfall Country leaflet with a very useful large scale map is available from the Cwm Porth car park shop.

1 Start Turn L out of car park and R in front of The New Inn, passing church on L. Continue along lane crossing Afon Mellte and take next footpath on R which leads to Cwm Porth car park. A wooden signpost indicates the path down to Porth yr Ogof – well worth viewing.

2 ½ mile/1.3km Cross road and you have two options. Recommended route is to turn L uphill then R along track/public footpath

GRADIENT PROFILE



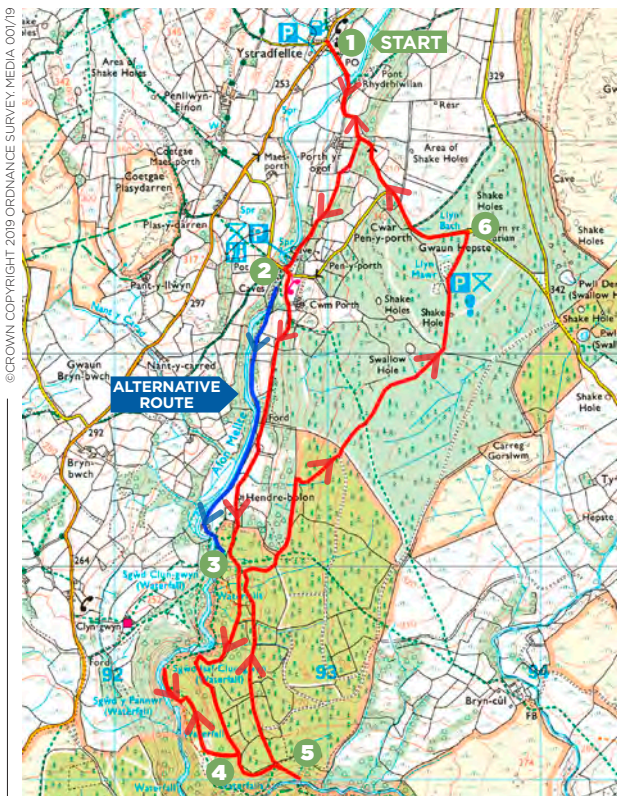
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► OS Explorer map OL12 ► Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop

and follow this to Hendre-bolon and a four-way junction/signpost 11 beyond, where you join Four Falls Trail. Turn R down to waymark post 13. (Alternatively from road you can continue along path signposted for Sgwd Clun-Gwyn, keeping ahead at gate – path that forks R signed 'Access for Cavers'. Before long you reach a grassy area and path - with rocks and roots, so not easy walking – continues alongside Afon Mellte. Carry on past footbridge to reach post 13.) Trail itself is a red waymarked circuit, off which are green waymarked linear routes (link paths) down to each waterfall. Turn off R down link path which leads to first waterfall – Sgwd Clun-Gwyn.

3 **1¼ miles/2.8km**
Return to main route/post 13 and bear R signposted for Sgwd yr Eira.

4 **2½ miles/4.2km**
At post 25 you reach another junction. Turn off R down link path signed Sgwd y Pannwr. This is steep, with boardwalk and steps. At bottom enjoy view of waterfall, then follow path northwards alongside river to visit next waterfall, Sgwd Isaf Clun-Gwyn. Last section of path beyond post 32 is tricky since ground by waterfall is steep, rough and slippery. Retrace steps uphill to post 25 and turn R until you reach junction at post 35.



5 **3½ miles/5.6km**
Turn off R once again and follow the stepped path which descends quite steeply down to Sgwd yr Eira, most famous waterfall in the area. You can walk behind the cascade, but beware unstable rocks and slippery path if you do choose to do so. Climb back up to post 35 and turn R, following signs for Gwaun Hepste car park, bearing R at a 4-way junction.

6 **5½ miles/8.8km**
Continue from car park to road and turn L, keeping ahead at fork back down to Ystradfellte. **CW**

VIEW THE WALK ON OS MAPS ONLINE:
lfto.com/cwroutes

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



OS MAPS



Ordnance Survey

DATE WALKED

TIME TAKEN

YOUR RATING