



Themed Walks No. 2

Crewil Pool Trail

Crewil Pool Trail at a glance

Distance	4km
Time	2 hours

Crewil Pool Trail

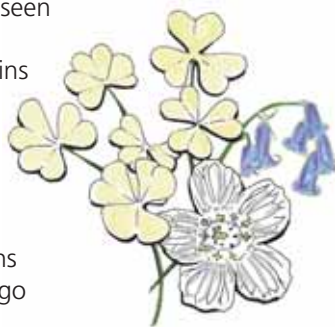
Woodlands, open pasture, and riverbank habitats will all be encountered on this pleasant walk along newly created footpaths and bridleways near Bethlehem.

Look out for

Some of the best wildlife to be seen in South West Wales such as Red kite, kingfishers, sand martins and trout as well as lots of wild flowers and impressive parkland trees.

Don't forget to

Follow the footpath marker signs and keep to field edges as you go around in a clockwise direction, beginning at the top of Allt y Saeson woods.



Be aware

There is very limited car parking at the start of the walk (1 map grid ref SN 693256). It is possible to park in near Bethlehem post office and walk up to the starting point. The terrain is very uneven in places and there are stiles and steep hills to climb.

Be prepared

We recommend that you are equipped with a map and compass with the skills to use them, as well as suitable footwear and clothing for the terrain, ground and weather conditions.



THE ROUTE

The walk begins near Dan yr Allt lodge. ❶ Follow the foot path along the edge of the woods until you reach a stile on your left. Cross the stile to enter the wood and follow the path along the base of the woods.

❷ Allt y Saeson Wood

The woodlands contain an array of ground flora species such as bluebells and wood sorrel which tells us these are ancient woods. Allt y Saeson Wood provides excellent habitat for all sorts of wildlife including badgers who have established large home complexes called setts.

Allt y Saeson Wood also has a mysterious historical interest. Hidden in the woods a little way off the path is a gravestone with no name inscribed. There are at least three different stories explaining the history of the stone. One describes how a young man working on the construction of Allt y Saeson Bridge was tragically killed by a falling parapet stone. His broken hearted fiancé took her own life and could therefore not be buried in a churchyard. She was consequently buried in the woods, with the stone that killed her true love, as a gravestone. Allt y Saeson bridge, which has been recently restored using traditional lime mortar building techniques is also worth a visit on this trail. (The bridge is not on the footpath).

Once out in the open fields, follow the field boundary, with the hedge to your left. At the end of the field, turn right and keep the field boundary on your right until you reach a small gate. Go through the gate and follow the footpath to the right which leads to the river. Follow the river's edge for a while until you reach a track leading up to the right.

❸ Riverside corridor

The river bank has been fenced off outside the new public right of way with help from the Tirwedd Tywi grant scheme administered by the Tywi Afon yr Oesoedd project. The fencing is done to protect the river bank from erosion by livestock and also to provide cover for wildlife. It also improves water quality by preventing manure and fertilizer from getting into the river.

Several wildlife species can be spotted along the river bank, including dippers, herons and various ducks and wading birds. The shy kingfisher is often glimpsed only as a bright flash of blue and green as it flies fast and low over water.

The kingfisher enjoys the shade of overhanging branches along the river and the excellent feeding opportunities offered by ❹ Crewil Pool. The sandy banks along the river are ideal for the kingfisher to nest.



If you are very fortunate you may spot an elusive otter. The good water quality and the ample supply for fish in the River Tywi make it one of the best in Wales for otters to live and breed.

Follow the track which will take you through Dolau Farm yard. Once through the yard, follow the path to the right which will join up to the path at the beginning of the walk. Follow this path back to Dan-yr-Allt Lodge.

❺ Dan yr Allt Estate

As you begin the approach to Dolau Farm the parkland characteristics surrounding you in the landscape become evident, with pockets of woodland, tree clusters and individual trees within fields. This "Picturesque Landscape" design was created by the Danyrallt Estate and was very popular in the 18th and 19th Centuries.

Danyrallt Mansion was accidentally burnt down during the Second World War. There are still some remains of Danyrallt Mansion such as the walled gardens to the left of the path as you approach Dolau Farm.

Moschatel, a native woodland wildflower, has been found along one of the old hedgerows in the valley floor parkland, suggesting that these hedges could be a strip of old woodland or are very old planted hedgerows.

