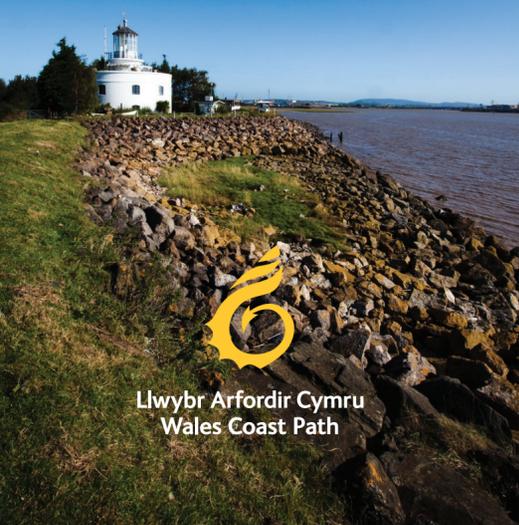


Newport Coast Path



The Coast Path of Wales is 870 miles. The Newport Coast Path Section is 23 miles/32km of this.

- ### Points of Interest
- 1 Redwick
 - 2 Whitson
 - 3 Goldcliff Sea Wall & Priory
 - 4 Wetlands Nature Reserve
 - 5 The East Usk Lighthouse
 - 6 Newport Wetlands Centre
 - 7 Great Traston Meadows Reserve
 - 8 Newport Medieval Ship Restoration
 - 9 View of the Docks
 - 10 The Newport Transporter Bridge
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 - 13 The Newport City Footbridge
 - 14 Riverfront Theatre & Arts Centre
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 - 16 Newport Castle
 - 17 Tredegar House
 - 18 The West Usk Lighthouse
 - 19 The Gout at Peterstone
 - 20 Peterstone Church

- Newport Coast Path Route
- Sirhowy Valley Walk
- Sirhowy Valley Walk link
- Usk Valley Walk
- Usk Valley Walk link (under construction)
- Newport Boundary
- Transporter Bridge crossing
- Let's Walk Newport www.newport.gov.uk/countryside
- Forest areas
- Urban areas
- Gwent Levels (SSSI*)
- River Usk (SSSI*)
*Site of Special Scientific Interest
- Wales Coast Path Waymarker
- Local Information Centre
- Toilets
- Food & Drink
- Accommodation
- Camping & Caravan site
- Public house
- Parking (free)
- Parking (paid)
- Golf Course

When walking, refer to the OS Map 152 Newport & Pontypool





www.newport.gov.uk/visiting

West Usk Lighthouse to the Wentloog Levels

17 Tredegar House

One of the architectural wonders of Wales, Tredegar House is also one of the most significant late 17th-century mansions in the whole of Britain. It's a Grade I listed building and is set in its own beautiful 90 acre park.

The Morgan family lived on the site of Tredegar House from 1402, but the oldest part of the building we see today dates from the late 15th Century. Originally built of stone, it was substantially rebuilt between 1664 and 1672 in red brick, at that time a rare and expensive building material.

Recently the National Trust took on the management of the building, as well as of the gardens and parkland. More visitors than ever can now enjoy the splendour of the house.



18 The West Usk Lighthouse

The West Usk Lighthouse is on the sea wall south of St Brides. It was built in 1821 by Scottish architect, James Walker. It was the first of 22 lighthouses he built. The lighthouse was on its own island up until 1856 when the land around it was reclaimed. It was a working lighthouse warning ships until 1922 when it was decommissioned. Since 1989 The West Usk Lighthouse has been a bed and breakfast.



19 The Gout at Peterstone

The gout is a simple tidal flap system similar to that used by the Romans nearly 2000 years ago. Fresh water from the ditches and reens goes through the sea wall at low tide via a flap and out to the sea. When the tide comes in, the incoming seawater pushes against the flap and closes it. The fresh water on the other side of the wall builds up temporarily in the reens until the tide turns and goes back out. The weight of the fresh water then pushes the flap open again – draining out to the sea until the next high tide.

20 Peterstone Church

St Peter's Church at Peterstone Wentloog is now a private home though it still looks like an impressive 15th Century church. It is thought to have provided a refuge for local folks sheltering from the Bristol Channel Flood of 1607.



Sites of interest around the Newport Coast Path

A Caerleon

The Second Roman Augustan Legion occupied Caerleon from AD75. What survives are: sections of the fortress wall; the amphitheatre which once could seat the whole legion – 6,000 spectators; remains of Roman barrack buildings and remnants of fortress baths which would have been the legionnaires' leisure centre complete with heated changing rooms, a pool and a gymnasium. Some people believe Caerleon to be the location of King Arthur's Camelot. For opening times and more information, visit www.newport.gov.uk/visiting or refer to Let's Walk Newport 5 Lodge Hill Circular Walk



B Fourteen Locks

The Fourteen Locks Canal Centre celebrates the engineering feat of Thomas Dadford in the last years of the 18th Century. Dadford created a flight of locks that raised the water level of the Monmouthshire Canal 160 ft in just 800 yards. This is one of the steepest rises in Britain, and when combined with the sheer number of locks in a small area, it becomes one of the most significant and impressive in the country. For opening times and more information, visit www.fourteenlocks.co.uk or refer to Let's Walk Newport 1 Fourteen Locks Circular Walk



C Wentwood

Wentwood is the largest forest in Wales with a 1000 hectares of continuous woodland and a history spanning more than 1000 years. It's home to deer, dormouse, adders, lizards and wood ant as well more than 130 species of birds. Walks, bridal paths and cycling trails of various lengths are well signposted so that it's almost impossible to get lost. There are picnic areas, BBQ facilities, a children's play area, an assault course and stunning views of the reservoir and of the Bristol Channel.



Other Walks

The Usk Valley Walk A 48 mile (77km) walk between Caerleon and Brecon through the beautiful Vale of Usk will take an average of 4 days to complete.

The Sirhowy Valley Walk A 26 mile (42km) walk starting at Sirhowy (near Tredegar) and finishing at Tredegar House in Newport. It passes through spectacular mountain scenery, upland and lowland farms and urban fringe.



Newport Coast Path



Llwybr Arfordir Cymru
Wales Coast Path

Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru
Natural Resources Wales

Newport CITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR DDINAS CASNEWYDD

Noddir gan Lywodraeth Cymru
Sponsored by Welsh Government

All information is deemed correct at the time of print. We can not be held responsible for any changes to the walk or points of interest that are featured in this booklet. In case of enquiry regarding content or photography please contact: 01633 656656.

From Redwick to Nash

1 Redwick

Redwick is the best-preserved medieval village on the Gwent Levels. The village probably originated late in the eleventh century; its layout has hardly changed since.

The church, St Thomas the Apostle, is well worth a visit. Among its unique features, the church has medieval stone carvings, a full immersion baptistry and its font originates from the 13th Century. Two of the six bells in the central tower date from the pre-Reformation period and are thought to be some of the oldest working church bells in the country.



2 Whitson

The houses and farmsteads in Whitson are set back from the road in long strips of pasture. It reflects a medieval 'cope' land allocation pattern. This fascinating landscape was planned out between the 11th and 13th century, possibly by the monks at Goldcliff.

"Monksditch" also known as "Goldcliff Pill" passes through the village on its way to the sea. Monksditch carries water from an upland stream to the coast, preventing the fresh water from flooding the levels. It was first documented in the 13th Century and probably constructed by the monks at Goldcliff.



3 Goldcliff Sea Wall and Priory

Giraldus Cambrensis, who toured Wales in 1188, described Gouldclyffe in Latin as 'glittering with a wonderful brightness'.

Goldcliff was named after a limestone cliff, about 60 feet high, that once rose over a great bed of yellow mica that had a glittering appearance in sunshine, especially to ships passing in the Bristol Channel.

Goldcliff was an island until the sea wall was built. In 1113AD the Norman Lord of Caerleon granted the Benedictines a priory which was built on the island of Goldcliff. The monks were also given the surrounding land to farm though they had to reclaim it from the sea – continuing the work of the Romans.

Goldcliff has long been associated with the tidal fishing of salmon, which may well have had its origins with the Priory or even in Roman times.



4 Wetlands Nature Reserve

The reserve was first established by the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) in 2000 to mitigate the loss of the wildlife habitat in the area after the Cardiff Bay Barrage scheme was undertaken. The land which stretches from Goldcliff to Uskmouth was once an ash covered wasteland for the neighbouring coal-fired Uskmouth power station.

The ash was removed and the site re-landscaped. Now 438 hectares cover salt marsh, reed beds, saline lagoons, wet grassland, and scrub and provide an excellent habitat for a range of species, especially wetland birds. The water levels are carefully regulated to ensure the saline lagoons get enough sea water. As the sea water floods in, so do the fish and prawns which provide a great source of food.

5 The East Usk Lighthouse

The East Usk Lighthouse is one of two lighthouses on either side of the River Usk at the Severn Estuary. It is still operational. In 1893, Thomas Williams, with the help of his horse, dragged the steel used to build the lighthouse from Nash down the long lane to the coast. His family continued to tend the lighthouse for generations. Originally, it was built on legs, but now it forms part of the sea wall and stands within the grounds of the Wetlands Nature Reserve.



6 Newport Wetlands Centre

The Wetlands Centre is nestled among reeds and pools to make it look as if it's floating. The centre was opened in 2008 and is now managed by the RSPB. It houses a shop, café, an education room and conference facilities to provide activities and events as well as a place for visitors to relax. Guided walks around the Reserve can be arranged from here.

7 Great Traston Meadows Reserve

Solutia (now Eastman Industries) established the reserve in conjunction with Newport City Council and the Gwent Wildlife Trust. It consists of grazing marsh bordered by reens which creates a unique habitat for species of wildlife and plants.

More than 95% of Britain's hay meadows have been lost since the Second World War due to changes in land management, so the Reserve's hay meadows are increasingly important for the rare plants found there. They are designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest.



The Docks and Uskmouth

8 Newport Medieval Ship

A fifteenth century merchant vessel, The Newport Medieval Ship was discovered in 2002. Learn about the history and conservation work on the timbers at the Visitor Centre.

9 View of the Docks

From here you can see the Alexandra Docks across the River. The North Dock opened in April 1875, and in 1878, whilst constructing the timber float, a Danish Viking Ship was found in mud on ten acres of land near the North Dock.



The South Dock was constructed in three sections: the northern section opened in 1893, the second southern portion in 1907, and the third and final section including the South Lock entrance was officially opened on 14th July 1914 by HRH Prince Arthur of Connaught. On the date of opening, it was the largest sea lock in the world.

10 Newport Transporter Bridge

Newport's Grade I listed Transporter Bridge is one of just six working Transporter Bridges worldwide, and it is a fascinating and impressive monument to Edwardian engineering. Opened in 1906, the design was an ingenious solution to the problem of crossing the River Usk, which has the highest tidal range of any city in the world, whilst still allowing the passage of tall-masted ships.

The bridge is open for gondola crossings roughly from March until the end of September. Day visit tickets also include access to the Motor House and High Level Walkway, which were previously unavailable, but are now regularly open. The Visitor Centre is open all year, and day visits and gondola crossings are available to groups all year (engineering works permitting – please book).

The gondola crossing forms part of the Coast Path route, but please check prior to visiting – when the bridge is closed, the route goes along the SDR Bridge just upriver.

11 The City Bridge (SDR)

This outstanding 190 metre steel arch bridge celebrates the City of Newport's industrial heritage. It's located between the Transporter Bridge and the George Street Bridge – the first cable-stayed highway bridge in the UK.



12 Newport Museum and Art Gallery

The Museum and Art Gallery displays tell the story of Newport from earliest prehistoric times to 1900s. Of particular interest are the Roman and Chartist collections.

13 Newport City Footbridge

The Newport City Footbridge is a pedestrian and cycle bridge linking the east bank of the River Usk to new developments on the west bank. It was opened exactly 100 years to the day after the Transporter Bridge.



14 Riverfront theatre and Arts Centre

The Riverfront is Newport's thriving theatre and arts centre whose purpose is to bring as many people as possible into contact with the arts and creativity. It has two theatre spaces, studios and a licensed café.



15 Steel Wave Sculpture

Stands on the riverbank where commercial and passenger wharves were thriving early in the 19th Century. The sculpture reflects Newport's history of steel manufacturing and the foundation of the town on the banks of the River Usk. Designed by Peter Fink and erected in 1990, the sculpture was made using 50 tons of sheet steel and stands 14 metres high by 35 metres long.



16 Newport Castle

Newport Castle was built in the 1280s and 1290s by Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester. Its dramatic riverside frontage has a water gate in the central tower, so the lord could arrive by boat. The only similar example is the 'Traitor's Gate' at the Tower of London. Between the corner and central towers was a great hall and chambers, and the whole castle was contained within a tidal moat and a curtain wall.

Updated by the Dukes of Buckingham into a great house with a fine presence chamber over the water gate, it fell into disrepair after the third Duke was executed in 1521. In the 1800s it was converted into a tannery and brewery, and today the site is open to visitors for special events throughout the year.

