

23 WREXHAM CHIRK & PONTFADOG

Distance: 10 miles/16km Time: 5½ hours Grade: Challenging



WALES

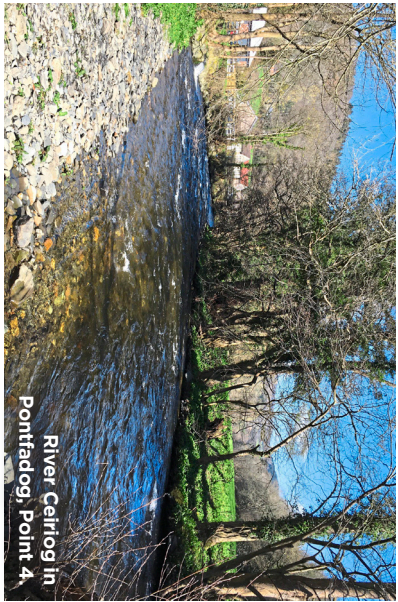


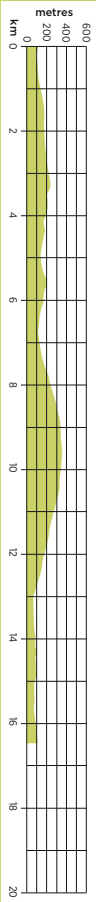
PHOTO: KATIE SYKES



CHOSEN BY... KATIE SYKES

In its lower reaches, the River Ceiriog marks the boundary between Wales and England. This ramble explores some of this borderland's stirring landscapes and rich history, taking in Marcher stronghold Chirk Castle and finishing with a triumphant crossing of Chirk Aqueduct, which has one end in England, the other in Wales. At the midpoint of the route lies the Swan Inn, nestled in the Ceiriog Valley, serving hearty food.

1 Start
Turn R across railway bridge, then R onto path signed for Chirk Castle. Follow path over



GRADIENT PROFILE

PLAN YOUR WALK

ROUTE
Start/parking Entrance to Chirk railway station, grid ref SJ285578. Free parking just off route outside Caffi Wylla, Castle Road, Chirk
Is it for me? Clear paths, tracks, and country roads. Stream in Point 3 may need wading after rain
Stiles 3

canal and R into woodland. After 150m, go through gate on L and cross field. Turn R onto road, then L to enter grounds of Chirk Castle. Follow path marked with green arrows, heading straight uphill then branching off diagonally (NW). At top right of field, go through two gates and continue straight on, passing castle on L to reach car park. Detour to castle if wished.

PLANNING

Nearest town Chirk
Refreshments The Swan Inn at Pontfadog (01691 718273), various options in Chirk, including Caffi Wylla (01691 770492)
Public toilets Swan Inn (customers only)
Public transport Regular trains to Chirk from Wrexham, Chester, Shrewsbury, Birmingham, Hereford and Cardiff. Bus 64 Chirk-Llangollen, stopping at Pontfadog (Mon-Sat, traveline.cymru)
Maps OS Explorer 240; Landranger 126

2 1½ miles/2km
Take path running to L of car park. Follow path uphill through series of gates. When you reach road, take Offa's Dyke Path on L. Follow path uphill, ignoring red arrow pointing L, then steeply downhill. Turn R through gate



24 EAST LOTHIAN EAST LINTON TO DUNBAR

Distance: 7½ miles/12km Time: 4 hours Grade: Moderate



SCOTLAND



PHOTO: PHOEBE TAPLIN



CHOSEN BY... PHOEBE TAPLIN

The pioneering conservationist John Muir was born in Dunbar in 1838. He moved to America aged 11 and went on to create the system that still protects Yosemite and other National Parks. 'When I was a boy in Scotland, I was fond of all things wild...' he wrote, '...around my native town of Dunbar by the stormy North Sea, there was no lack of wildness, though most of the land lay in smooth cultivation.' There are both wild and cultivated landscapes on this walk along the John Muir Way, which ends at Muir's birthplace with its excellent free museum. Farm fields,

riverbank paths and a picturesque 17th-century mill are followed by wide estuary, salt marsh, sandy beach, rugged red cliffs and ruined Dunbar castle. East Lothian is 'Scotland's foodie and drink county', and this walk has several great eateries at the start and end, including the acclaimed Crown & Kitchen.

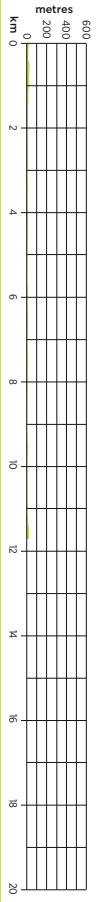
PLAN YOUR WALK

ROUTE
Start/parking Bridgend Hotel bus stop, East Linton/could park by Dunbar Leisure Pool and catch bus, postcode EH40 3EH, grid ref NT591770
Is it for me? Rough, overgrown patches on opening riverside path (could be avoided), but otherwise easy/level paths
Stiles None

PLANNING

Nearest town Dunbar
Refreshments Crown & Kitchen gastro pub, East Linton (01620 860098); Hector's Artisan Pizzeria near final bus stop
Public toilets Near Belhaven Bay and Dunbar Leisure Pool
Public transport Regular buses East Linton-Dunbar: 120 (Eve) and X7 (East Coast buses). Trains Edinburgh-Dunbar
Maps OS Explorer 351; Landranger 67

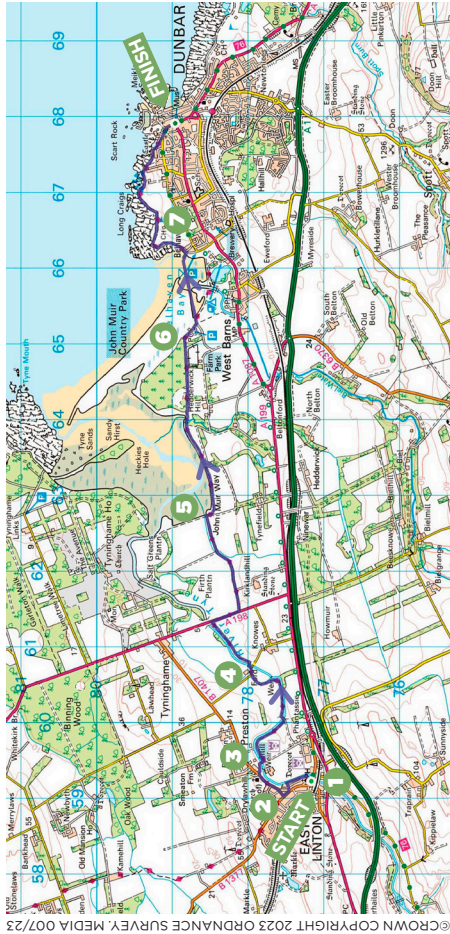
1 Start
From Bridgend bus stop next to Linton Hotel, walk into Mill Wynd and immediately fork R down narrow drive near bridge. Turn R through gate marked Private Gardens and turn L along riverside path with water on R. (If path is too overgrown, walk along Bridge Street instead to Point 2).



GRADIENT PROFILE

24 EAST LOTHIAN EAST LINTON TO DUNBAR

OS Explorer map 351 Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop



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DATE WALKED

TIME TAKEN

YOUR RATING

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VIEW THE WALK ON OS MAPS ONLINE:

walk1000miles.co.uk/cwroutes

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At bench, follow lane L up to Stories Park and turn R up to High Street. Turn R past community hall.

2 ½ mile/0.5km

Turn R down Preston Road. Just beyond church, turn R onto footpath signed Dunbar. Turn R over footbridge and turn L to Preston Mill.

¾ mile/1.2km

Take path diagonally back across field to another footbridge. Cross it (view of dovecot ahead) and turn L with winding water now on L for ½ mile. Cross metal footbridge back over River Tyne and continue with water on R again for another ½ mile.

4 miles/3.2km

Follow path through gate, straight along track and R over bridge. Cross footbridge near

ford. Turn L onto riverside path again, signed Dunbar. Walk under main road bridge and turn immediately R along field track between hedges and keep straight for 1 mile.

5 ¾ miles/6km

At water, follow track and signs R and L by wide estuary and keep straight for ¾ mile. On edge of sandy beach with row of pines ahead, cross footbridge R. Keep straight again with fence of animal paddocks on R and pines on L.

5 ¼ miles/8.5km

When trees end, follow fence R. Turn L at sign into dunes. At low tide, follow path straight over saltmarsh and beach to footbridge (at high tide, follow John Muir way around edge to Point 7). Climb grassy bank and turn L with

beach on L. Follow coast path around edge of golf course.

7 6/10 miles/10.5km

Continue below club house. Follow coast path up steps onto headland and along cliffs. With view of castle and leisure pool ahead, climb down steps and walk along top of beach. Go through tunnel, down steps and around beach. Climb steps and turn L on Bayswell Road. Beyond church, turn R into High Street past John Muir's birthplace. High Street stop for East Linton bus is further along street, near pizzeria. **CWV**

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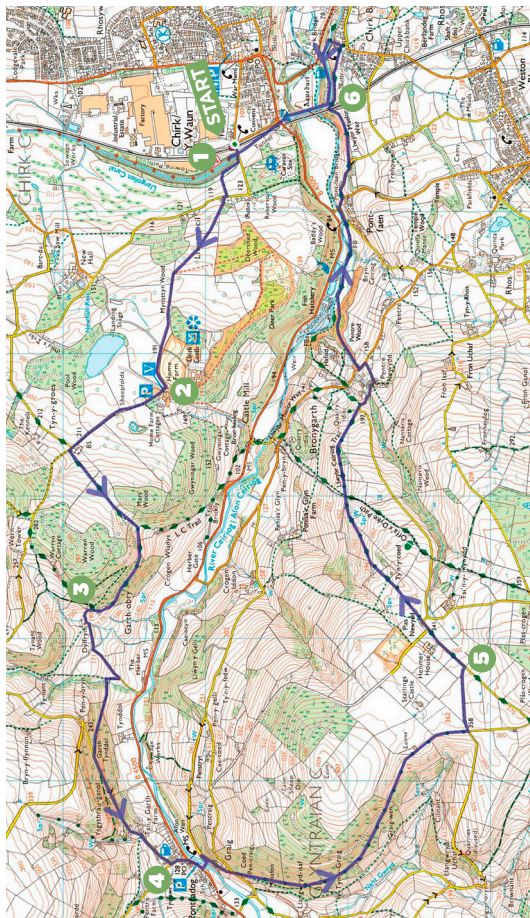
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23 WREXHAM CHIRK & PONTFADOG

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YOUR RATING

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At crossroads, continue straight on. Climb for 1½ miles. After you leave woodland behind, look for paved road on R. Turn L up track opposite it.

5 6 miles/9.8km

At end of track, turn L on road. Follow road for 1½ miles as it becomes track and crosses Offa's Dyke Path. At bottom of track, go straight on, following road past houses. When you meet another road, turn L, then R on path down through Penire Wood. Turn R along riverside path. Upon reaching stone bridge over river, turn R steeply uphill, then fork L. Just before road turns sharp R, take footpath leading off road joining from R. Turn sharp R on this road, almost doubling back on yourself.

4 miles/6.6km

Leave the Swan and turn R along main road. Cross bridge over river and follow road L. Look out for road joining from R. Turn sharp R on this road, almost doubling back on yourself.

at bottom of hill, ignoring Offa's Dyke Path sign. When path through woodland forks, branch L. When path becomes track, keep following it uphill.

3 2/4 miles/4.3km

At top of track, turn L road on R, then take next path R. Turn L on footpath, cross stream, and continue up path. Turn L on road and follow it downhill to Pontfaddog and the Swan Inn.

6 9 miles/14.3km
Cross railway line and continue on path. Cross field, go through two gates and passageway between houses, and turn L on road. Cross bridge and turn L on towpath. Follow it across aqueduct. If you're unfazed by dark and damp, walk through Chirk Tunnel, then turn R up path to return to start. Otherwise, after crossing aqueduct, climb up to road and go straight on along Station Road. **CWV**

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walk1000miles.co.uk/cwroutes

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