

# Pentraeth

## Circular Coastal Walk

Bring your binoculars for this one. Not only are there panoramic views over the impressive five-kilometre-wide *Red Wharf Bay* from the edge of the forest, but there is also a host of wildlife to be spotted. A mostly flat and gentle walk with a climb up to the forest edge. The woodland parts of the route may be muddy after rain.



## Directions

### 1 Pentraeth to Red Wharf Bay

Start your walk from *Brick Street car park* in the centre of *Pentraeth* near the church. From the bottom of the car park follow the sign for the *Dona* circular walk down *Brick Street* and into *Chapel Street*. Opposite *Chapel Bank* turn right through the metal kissing-gate next to the cattle grid onto a double-track. Follow this wooded track to the next cattle grid and where the lane bends right take the footpath straight on. Walk along the left-hand side of the fields, through a gap in the hedge to the next metal kissing-gate. There is a good view out towards *Red Wharf Bay* from here. Continue along a path between two hedges to a house where you may be able to see a *tower* in amongst the trees on your left. Bear right then left on the track around another house and continue



A Welsh Longhouse

following the track down to *Red Wharf Bay*. On arrival at *Pen-y-Lon* join the Coast Path. Turn right and follow a sandy track across the narrow stone *Estuary Bridge* over *Afon Nodwydd* to the tarmac road. Turn left over a second bridge past the memorial to *Hywel ap Owain Gwynedd* to the beach car park.



Estuary Bridge

### 2 Red Wharf Bay to Coch y Mieri

From the beach car park follow signs for the Coast Path to the right keeping the sea on the left. The path crosses the back of the beach where wading birds can be seen. After the driveway to *Tyn Coed* on the right the path widens to a track. Pass by reedbeds on your left and cross over a small stream. Where the track bends right, follow the footpath straight on. Just after a small wooden chalet called *Ger-y-Mor* make a right turn at the waymarker and head inland.



Memorial to Hywel ap Owain Gwynedd

### 3 Coch y Mieri to Pentraeth

Continue the short distance up the sandy path to the tarmac road and turn right following the Coast Path sign along the gated farm track to *Coch y Mieri*. At the property take a signed pathway to the left which follows a fence around the back of the buildings. Continue along the path on the edge of the forest until taking a ladder-stile on the right. Follow the Coast Path left and along the path to a metal kissing-gate. Continue straight on following the fence line bounding *Pentraeth Forest* on the left and pass through a wooden kissing-gate. At the second wooden kissing-gate take the path down the slope and bear left at the waymarker. Follow this path behind the property and proceed along the path at the



Pentraeth Forest

woodland edge to another wooden kissing-gate. When the track divides at the waymarker take the right-hand path downhill to a track at the entrance to *Tyn Coed*. Turn left and follow this track past the entrances to *Tan y Mynydd* and *Tynddyn Waen*. At a bend in the track bear right past *Tyn Gair* to the tarmac road by *Glan Morfa* entrance. Follow this road to the junction of the beach road. At the junction turn right towards the beach car park then at the signpost turn left back over the *Afon Nodwydd* at *Estuary Bridge*. And at *Pen y Lon* turn left inland to retrace your steps back to *Brick Street car park*. ■



Reedbed and Red Wharf Bay

## History and Interest

- **Pentraeth** derives its name from being at the “head (or point) of the sands” referring to its location at the head of nearby sandy *Red Wharf Bay*.
- The name of **Red Wharf Bay** is partly derived from the colour of the mudflats, while *Wharf* is a corruption of *Warth*, a term common in south-west England meaning shore or strand.
- The **Tower** on private land was built in the early 19th century by a *Captain Morgan*, then owner of *Fron Goch*, as a folly and lookout tower. The Captain owned a number of trading vessels and could watch for them arriving at the quay in *Red Wharf Bay*.
- The **Memorial** in the beach car park is dedicated to *Hywel ap Owain Gwynedd* and commemorates the nearby *Battle of Pentraeth* in 1170 in which he died. Owain, a prince and a poet, fought his half-brothers for a share of the *Kingdom of Gwynedd* following the death of their father who ruled most of Wales.
- **Pentraeth Forest** is 3km<sup>2</sup> of conifer woodland and was planted in the 1950s. It was the last refuge of the *red squirrel* on *Anglesey* until their recent reintroduction.

## Wildlife

At low tide the 10km<sup>2</sup> of exposed sand and mud welcomes *curlew*, *oystercatcher*, *redshank*, *plover*, *sandpipers*, *dunlin* and, during the winter months, *brent geese*.



Red Squirrel

In the summer *pyramidal orchids* can be seen growing in the sand dunes. *Otters* may be spotted in the river, and *Pentraeth Forest* is home to the *red squirrel*.

## Public Transport

- The No.50 from *Llangefni* to *Baumaris*; No.55 from *Llangefni* to *Pentraeth* and *Talwrn*; Nos.62 and 62C from *Bangor* to *Amlwch*; and No.63 from *Bangor* to *Llanerchymedd*, all run services to *Pentraeth* from Monday to Saturday.

## Refreshments

- *Pentraeth* has a couple of pubs serving food. There's also a sandwich shop, and a convenience store at the petrol station.



