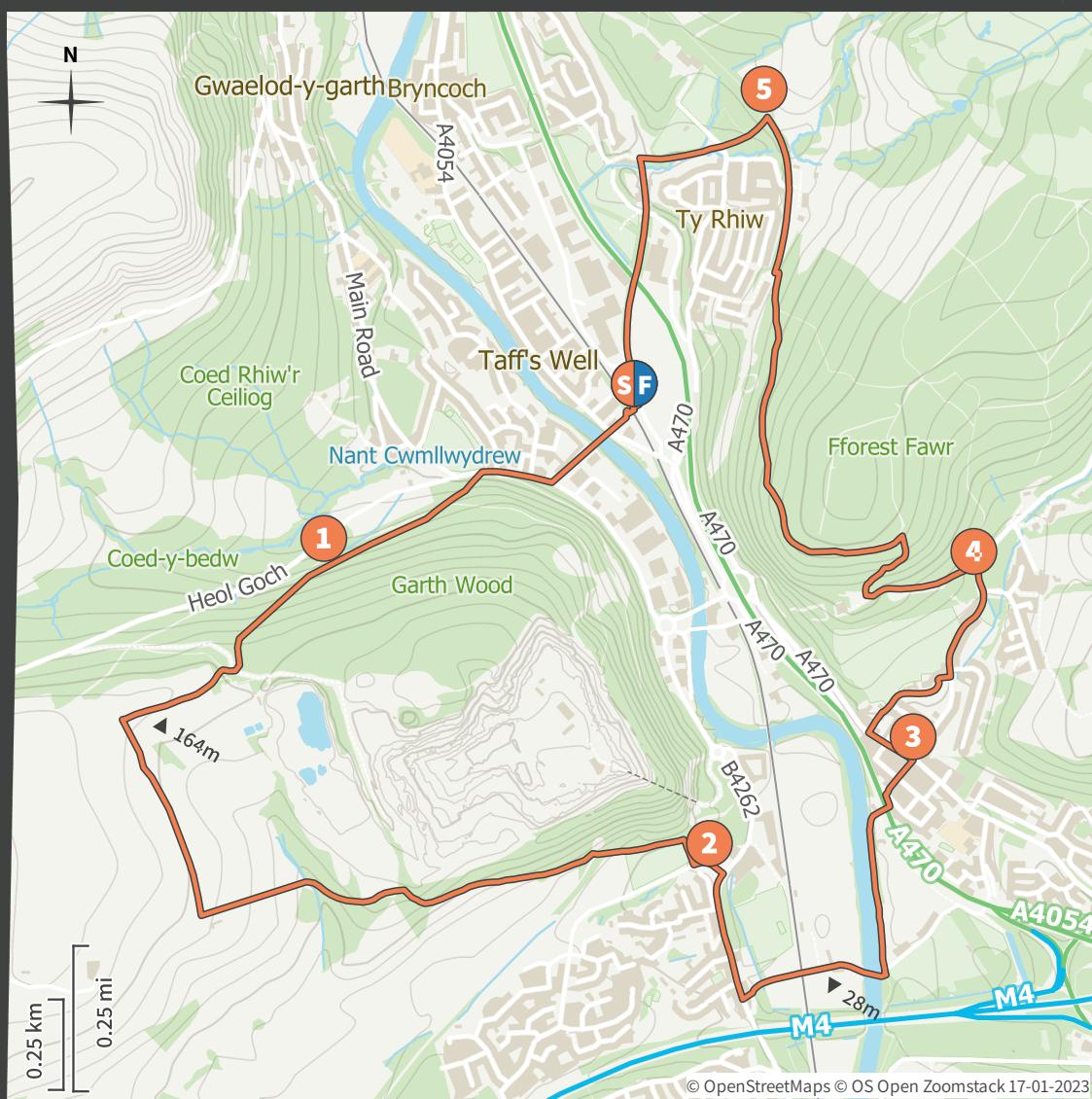




Little Garth and Castell Coch

A fairy tale castle and a toll house.

Pavements, wooded paths, gravel and old railway tracks.



Enjoy this ramble? There are 145 Paths to Wellbeing routes to explore across Wales!



Leisurely



290m



Circular



9.4km | 5.8m



03:00

- S** Starting from Taffs Well station, head for Taffs Well down a footpath and cross Cardiff Road at the zebra crossing. Head over the River Taff on the footbridge. Notice the fine view of Garth Hill. Keep straight ahead to the road in front and turn R on Main Road; once the site of Pentyrch iron works. Past River Glade, opposite Heol Berry, take the steep footpath on the opposite side of the road into the woods following the yellow markers, eventually joining a gravel track and keep R. Just past a mine entrance take a footpath L.
- 1** Climb steeply up through the beech trees, keep straight ahead at a junction of paths to a quarry road. Cross the road to a path opposite and take a L branch to a gate. Shortly after the gate, turn L through an avenue of trees to a field. Keep straight ahead down the field, passing a quarry on your L and follow the path to a field. Cross diagonally to a gate. Turn L and immediately R onto a gravel track, downhill past an old building on your R, over a railway bridge to a L turning alongside allotments. Turn L towards traffic lights.
- 2** Turn R at the metal barriers on a path cutting the corner in front of the houses and cross the road at the next crossing with traffic lights, and keep R. Take the steep steps on the L just after the gate to Primrose Cottage. Follow the track over the railway and to the Old Toll bridge over the River Taff. From here there is a fine view of Castell Coch. Turn L in front of the derelict Toll House through a gate to join the riverside path. After going under the subway, head up Market Street to the Centre of Tongwynlais.
- 3** Turn L before the Lewis Arms on Merthyr Road onto a raised footpath in front of some lovely, terraced cottages. Cross a side road and at the last house on the R, turn R up Birch Hill to join a footpath past the sides of houses on a narrow path. Keep ahead to emerge onto the end of Wellington Street and take the narrow path ahead that eventually joins Mill Road and Castle Road. Turn L, keeping L on the road, head past the golf course entrance and turn to the gate on your L (where the path runs out), leading up to Castell Coch.
- 4** Walk up the drive to Castell Coch. It was built for the Bute family as a fantasy castle by the Architect and designer William Burgess in Victorian times on the remains of a 13th-century castle, used as a hunting lodge by the ruthless Marcher Lord Gilbert de Clare. Take the footpath on your R, beside a large map sign showing the walking trails in these woods. Head uphill into Fforest Fawr and at the top, turn L onto a gravel forestry track that eventually leads down to a junction of paths. Keep R onto a disused railway line.
- 5** After 500m past the last of the houses on your L, take a path R that doubles back under the railway through a bridge. Keep straight ahead and cross a road onto another path running alongside a stream. At the junction with the Taff Trail, turn L past railway cottages and over the A470 on the old railway bridge. When you join the road, on your L is the depot for Cardiff Metro where the tram/trains are serviced. On your R is the car park to the Taffs Well Railway Station where you started your walk.