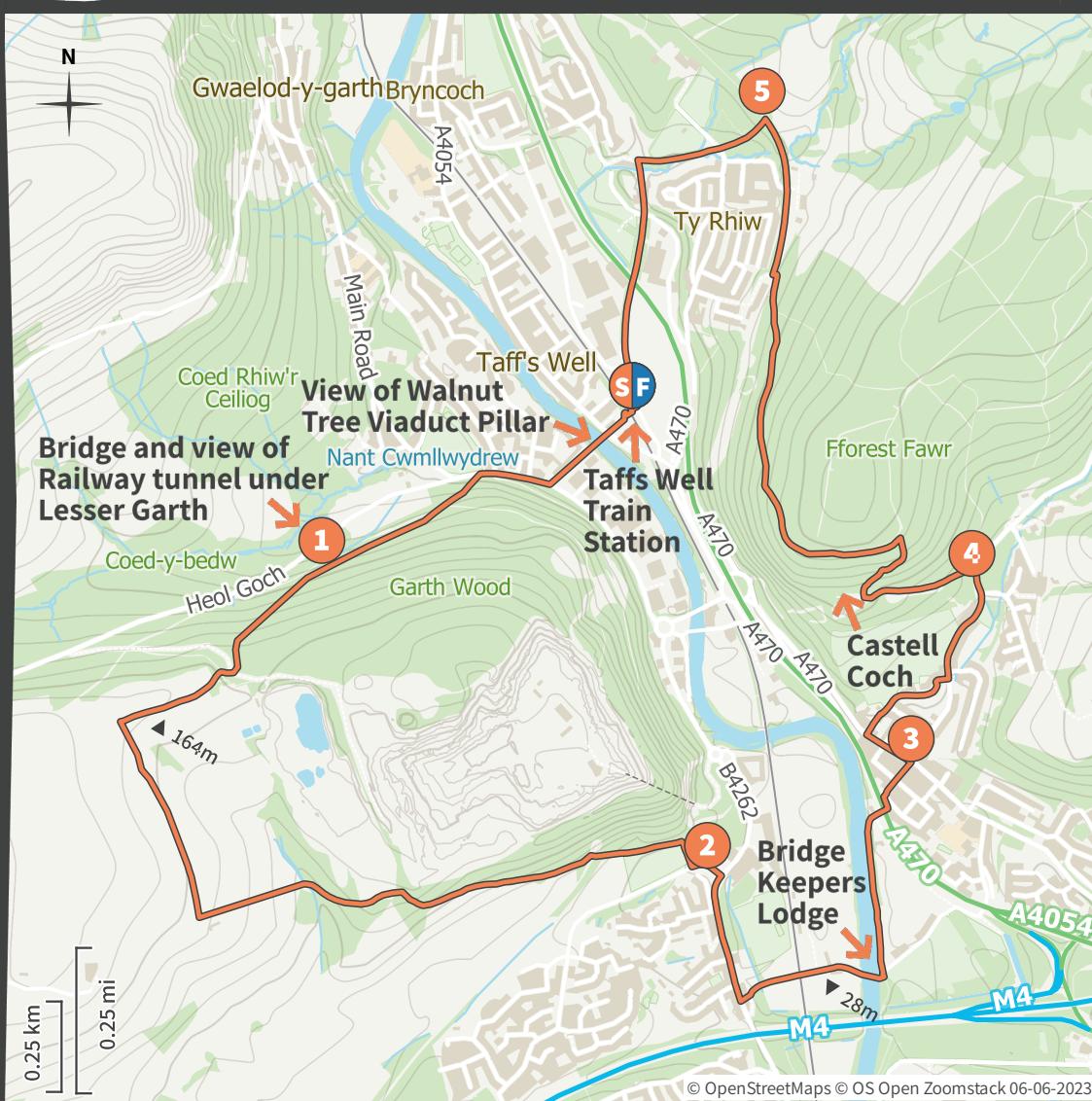




Little Garth and Castell Coch

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!



- S** Starting from Taffs Well station, head for Taffs Well down a footpath and not into the car park. 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. Head past South Glade, and opposite Heol Berry, take the steep footpath on the opposite side of the road into the woods, eventually joining a 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. Head through the gate and up into a field. Cross this field and another to arrive a stile. Bear L here and walk across a few fields towards a house and several buildings. As you arrive in front of the buildings go L walking along the wall all the way to the bottom of the field. Cross a stile and go R to pass through woods and into a field and R to a gate. Cross diagonally to a gate. Turn L and immediately R onto a track, downhill past an old building on your R, over a railway bridge to a R turning beyond allotments. Turn L towards traffic lights.
- 2** Turn R at the lights to cross the road, and then L across another road. Go R here. Take the steep steps on the L just after the gate to Primrose Cottage and before the motorway bridge. 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** Cross the road and 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 and go R down the drive to reach Castle Road. Turn L, keeping L on the road, head past the golf course entrance and continue until the pavement runs out and the driveway of Castell Coch is on your L.
- 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 after over half a mile 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.