



**Disabled access to the countryside**

# **In and around Wrexham County Borough**

**Read on and see how you can enjoy  
the countryside.**

## Introduction

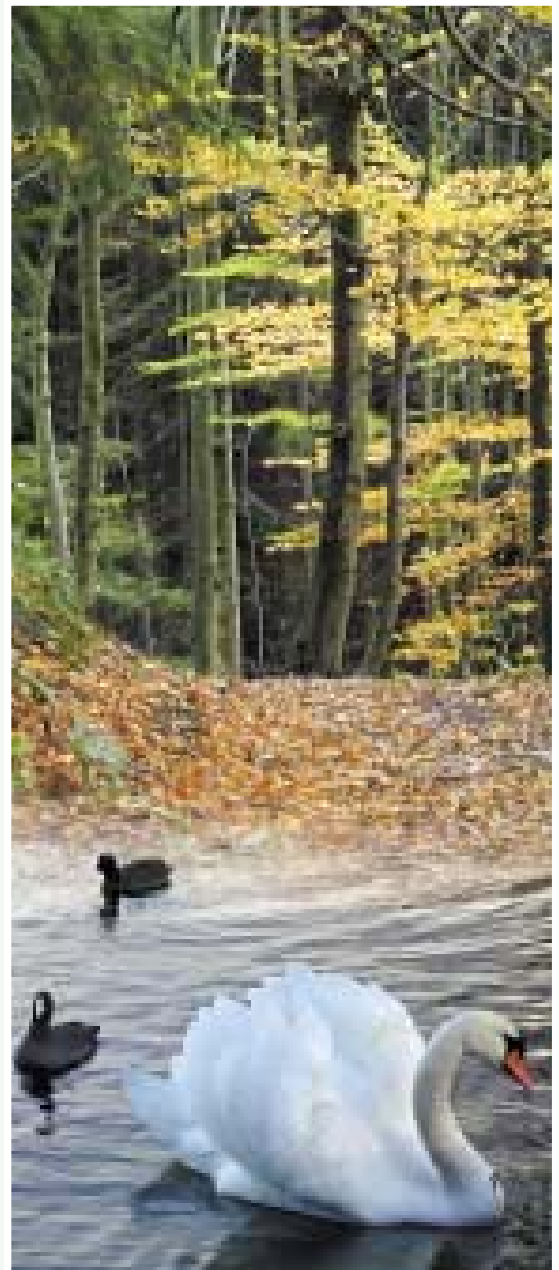
Access to the countryside is important for everyone. The health benefits of exercise, combined with the sense of well being from having contact with nature can make the experience extremely worthwhile.

Unfortunately access for all is not always possible. Following consultation with various groups for people with disabilities in the Wrexham area, Groundwork Wrexham & Flintshire have found that there is a great need for both facilities and information to provide improved opportunities for people with disabilities to gain access to the countryside. This booklet aims to satisfy the need for the information.

The details provided on each location in this booklet will allow the individual to decide if the walk is suitable for his or her own needs.

We hope that the walks suggested in this booklet will encourage you to visit one or more of the sites and enjoy the local countryside.

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information included in this booklet is accurate. Unfortunately the nature of the countryside means that site conditions can change rapidly.





Groundwork Wrexham & Flintshire cannot accept responsibility for any change in circumstances or accidents occurring at sites included in this booklet. A contact number has been included for each walk so that you can ring ahead to check the conditions.

If you have any feedback on this booklet. Please contact the Countryside and Access Officer at Groundwork Wrexham & Flintshire **01978 363555**. Audiotapes are not available on any of the routes included in this

booklet.

## Key To Booklet

- GR** Grid Reference of site from Ordnance Survey Map.  
**OS** Ordnance Survey Map Number.  
(Explorer / Orange Map unless otherwise stated).  
**Bus** Service number and Bus company quoted.  
See transport details for contact number.

### Car Parking

- D** Disabled Spaces  
**R** Regular Spaces

### Toilets

- D** Disabled Toilets  
**R** Regular Toilets

# Different Ways To Access The Countryside

## Horse Riding

Horse-Riding and Carriage Driving For All

The Clwyd Special Riding Centre

Llanfynydd, Wrexham, LL12 5HN

Tel 01352 770446 Email: [info@clwydsrc.F9.co.uk](mailto:info@clwydsrc.F9.co.uk)

Fax 01352 771693 Web: [www.csrc.btinternet.co.uk](http://www.csrc.btinternet.co.uk)

Led rides also available at Pont y Meibion Pony Trekking Centre.  
Check for suitability and availability on 01691 718333.

## Fishing

Coarse Fishery with Disabled Facilities

See Walk 6 for fishing at Acton Park.

## Boating

Ellesmere Visitor Centre offers a 'Wheely Boat' excursion. The 'Wheely Boat' is an extremely safe flat bottomed boat with a bow ramp that can be lowered onto a slipway allowing easy access for wheelchairs and people with mobility problems. Booking on 01691 622981. See Walk 7 for a more detailed description of the site. Fishing is available from the boat by arrangement.

**Derwen College** Residential College for students with learning difficulties and disabilities, (incorporating Derwen Enterprises).

Derwen College, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 3JA

Tel 01691 661234 Fax 01691 670714

Derwen College and Derwen Enterprises is set in idyllic countryside and access to the campus by members of the public is encouraged. Wheelchair accessible points of interest include:

- Betty's Coffee Shop (open 9.30 am - 4.30 pm)
- Orangery Restaurant (open 9.30 am - 4.30 pm)
- Ceramics Centre

- Garden Centre
- Craft Workshops
- Putting and Bowling Greens
- Victorian Inspired Walled Garden

All of the above are focused around disabled access with disabled toilets and ramped access. The relaxing and inviting facilities are all positioned close to car parks.

Future plans for the site include an extension to the conservation and tree area of Derwen Estates. The next few years will see the completion of a 750 metre access for all woodland path, a pond viewing platform, a marsh area, bird hide and visitor centre.

## **Transport to the Countryside**

Chariotts Dial-a-ride

Contact Mr George Greenshield tel 01978 312888

Annual membership payable £5.00

Price: £2.00 first two miles and 75p per mile after that.

Suitable for up to one wheelchair user plus two seated passengers.

## **Other Transport Services**

Prestige Taxis, Yale House, 46 Brook St, Wrexham

01978 291999 Cater for wheelchairs.

Assisted Wheelchair Transport Taxi Service

for Wheelchair Users: Maes Glas, Gwaenysgor, Rhyl

01741 852192 Experienced drivers / carers. All areas.

Flintshire Taxis, 13 High St, Holywell. T - 01352 715241

## **Bus Service Company Contacts**

Bryn Melyn Llangollen 01978 860701

Tanat Valley Coaches 01691 780212

Arriva 0870 608 2608

# Walk 1 Alyn Waters Gwersyllt Side

GR: SJ 3200 5470 OS: 256

Route 



**Bus** Bus stop is 1km from Visitor Centre. Arriva **0870 608 2608**.

**Open** Country Park open all the time. Visitor Centre and main gate vary; contact Visitor Centre for times.

**Admission Charge** None.

**Summary** A linear route 3km long with a possible link to **Walk2**.

**Contact** Visitor Centre **01978 762122**.

**Description** This gentle walk is through the largest country park in Wrexham, situated on the banks of the River Alyn.

**Parking** 2D (marked) 17R.

**Toilets** D and R in Visitor Centre.

**Information** Visitor Centre & Information Boards (not tactile).

**Refreshments** Tea, coffee and snacks from Visitor Centre, guide dogs are welcome.

**Visitor Centre** Open everyday 10:00am - 4:30pm Easter to September. Open weekends only October to Easter.

**Hazards** Cyclists and cars on short road section.

**Rest Areas** Max distance between seats 350 metres.

**Path Surface** Tarmac, minimum width 1.2 metres.



**Gradient** Short sections of steep gradient.

**Barrier** None evident.

**Other Users** Cyclists and cars on short road section.

**Overhead Clearance** Over 3 metres.

**Edge of Path** Defined by tarmac.

**Directions** From the car park go to the right of the visitor centre follow the signs for the cycleway. On reaching a large bench made from a fallen tree, follow the path to the left. After approx. 200 metres the path splits, follow the right hand path. Follow the path to a steel barrier, before the barrier turn left downhill (this section is quite steep and unless you are considering going on to Alyn Waters Llay side you may want to turn back at this point). The path goes quite steeply down hill and exits the park near the river. If you want to go on to Alyn Waters Llay side follow the minor country road up quite a steep gradient for 350 metres (this is known locally as Jackie Barrets Hill) the road comes to a 'T' junction, the entrance to Alyn waters Llay side is directly opposite.

## Walk 2 Alyn Waters Llay Side

GR: SJ 3325 5505 OS: 256

Route 



**Bus** Arriva 0870 608 2608. Bus stop is 350 metres from the main Alyn Waters gate.

**Open** Main gate 9.00am - 4.45pm, pedestrian gate always open.

**Admission Charge** None

**Summary** Linear 1km, or longer route of 3km if desired.

**Access Provider** Wrexham County Borough Countryside Services.

**Contact** Visitor Centre 01978 762122.

**Description** This gentle stroll through the picturesque country park takes in grass and woodland.

**Parking** 2 marked D & 15 unmarked R.

**Toilets** Nearest are at Alyn Waters Gwersyllt side D and R.

**Information** Information board at start of walk (not tactile).

**Refreshments** Tea, coffee and snacks available at Alyn Waters Gwersyllt side at the visitor centre.

**Visitor Centre** No (Gwersyllt side only).

**Hazards** Cyclists.

**Rest Areas** At least every 600 metres.

**Path Surface** Tarmac, minimum width 1 metre.

**Gradient** Some slight gradients.

**Barriers** One motorcycle barrier at start.

**Other Users** Cyclists.

**Overhead Clearance** 1-3 metres.

**Edge of Path** Defined by tarmac.

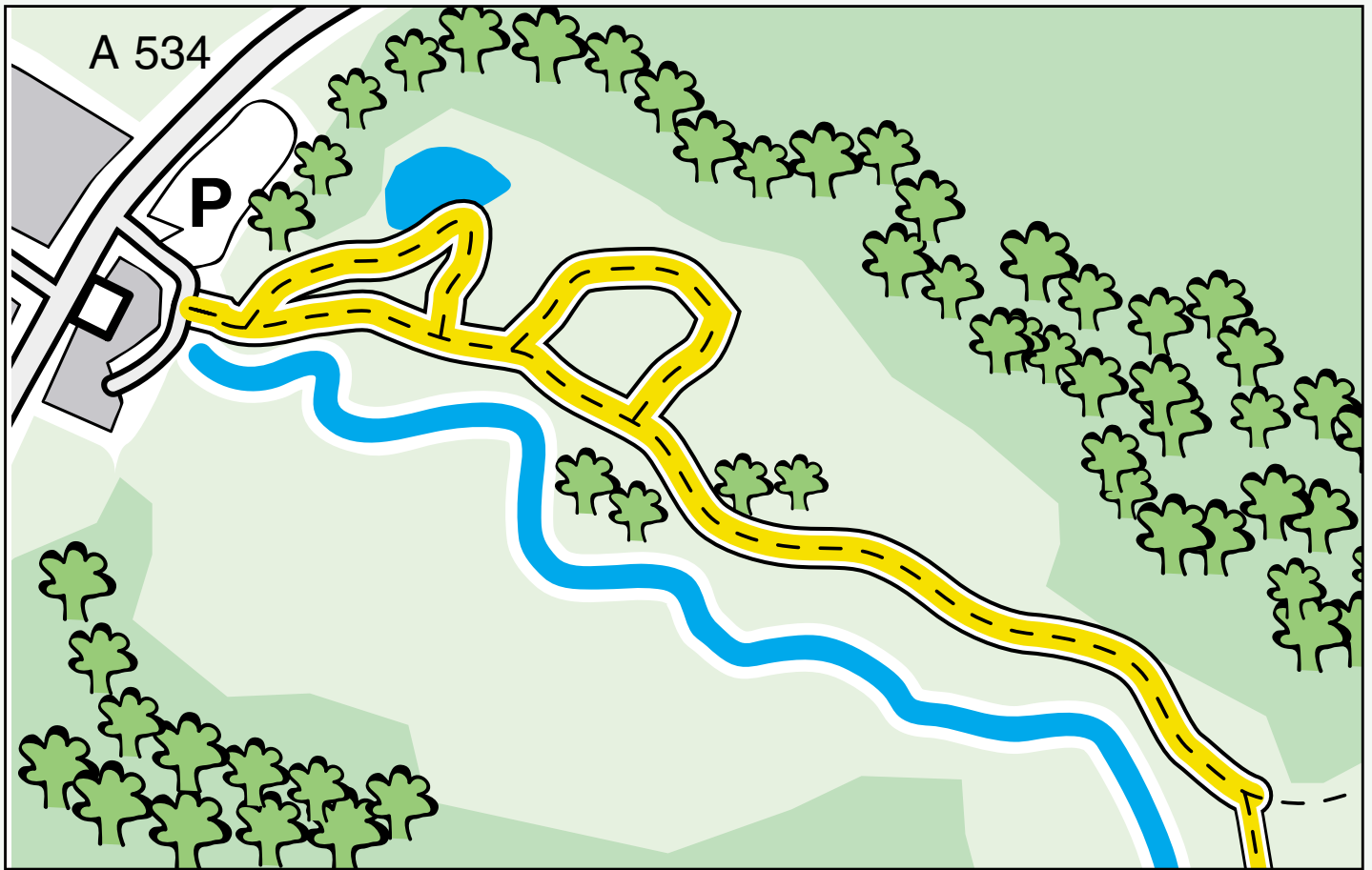
**Directions** From the car park, go through the motorcycle barrier and straight ahead. When the path forks (at the first bench) go left down a slight incline. Follow the path to the third bench. At this point, you can either carry on up the moderately steep slope to Jackie Barrets Hill and onto the Gwersyllt side via a 350 metre road section with steep gradient, or you can return by the same route. Please note that the circular route back to the Llay side car park deteriorates quite significantly.



## Walk 3 Erddig

GR: SJ 3250 4940 OS: 256

Route 



**Bus** Arriva 0870 608 2608. The bus stop is 95 metres along the road from the car park. Note: Only Wrexham bound buses stop here.

**Open** Always.

**Admission Charge** None.

**Summary** A linear route of 750 metres one-way.

**Access Provider** National Trust.

**Contact** Warden at Erddig 01978 315178.

**Description** A gentle walk along the river to an idyllic meadow, passing by the sensory garden and education pond.

**Parking** Opposite Felin Puleston Industrial Estate - approximately 30 parking spaces (unmarked).

**Toilets** None.

**Information** Information board at the meadow (not tactile).

**Refreshments** Riverside Cafe, Felin Puleston Industrial Estate

Tel. 01978 366801. Not wheelchair accessible, but they will serve outside if required.

**Visitor Centre** None.

**Hazards** Path is in close proximity to the River Clywedog.

**Rest Areas** At least every 400 metres.

**Path Surface** Width generally 1m, but down to 0.5 metre with grassy edges in places. Mainly secure chippings, but several patches of loose chippings up to 2cm. One area of tree roots and one area of uneven ground with large stones. This uneven area can be avoided by taking the path that goes off at an angle to the left that goes direct to the education pond.

**Gradient** One moderate rise, but mainly flat.

**Barriers** The entrance is quite challenging with a small step of 5cm and muddy, uneven ground. There are 4 kissing gates along the route all of which are wheelchair accessible.

**Other Users** Some cyclists.

**Overhead Clearance** 2 metres.

**Edge of Path** Defined by a wooden edge rail in places, not so well defined in others.

**Directions** Turn left out of the car park towards Felin Puleston Industrial Estate. Turn left through the kissing gate and go straight ahead, after 70 metres the education pond is on the path to the left.

Continue to follow the path straight ahead. After a further 130 metres you will reach the sensory garden with the willow arch, sheltered seating and plants. Carry on along the path straight ahead until you reach the fourth kissing gate.

Turn right into the meadow and picnic or rest at your leisure!

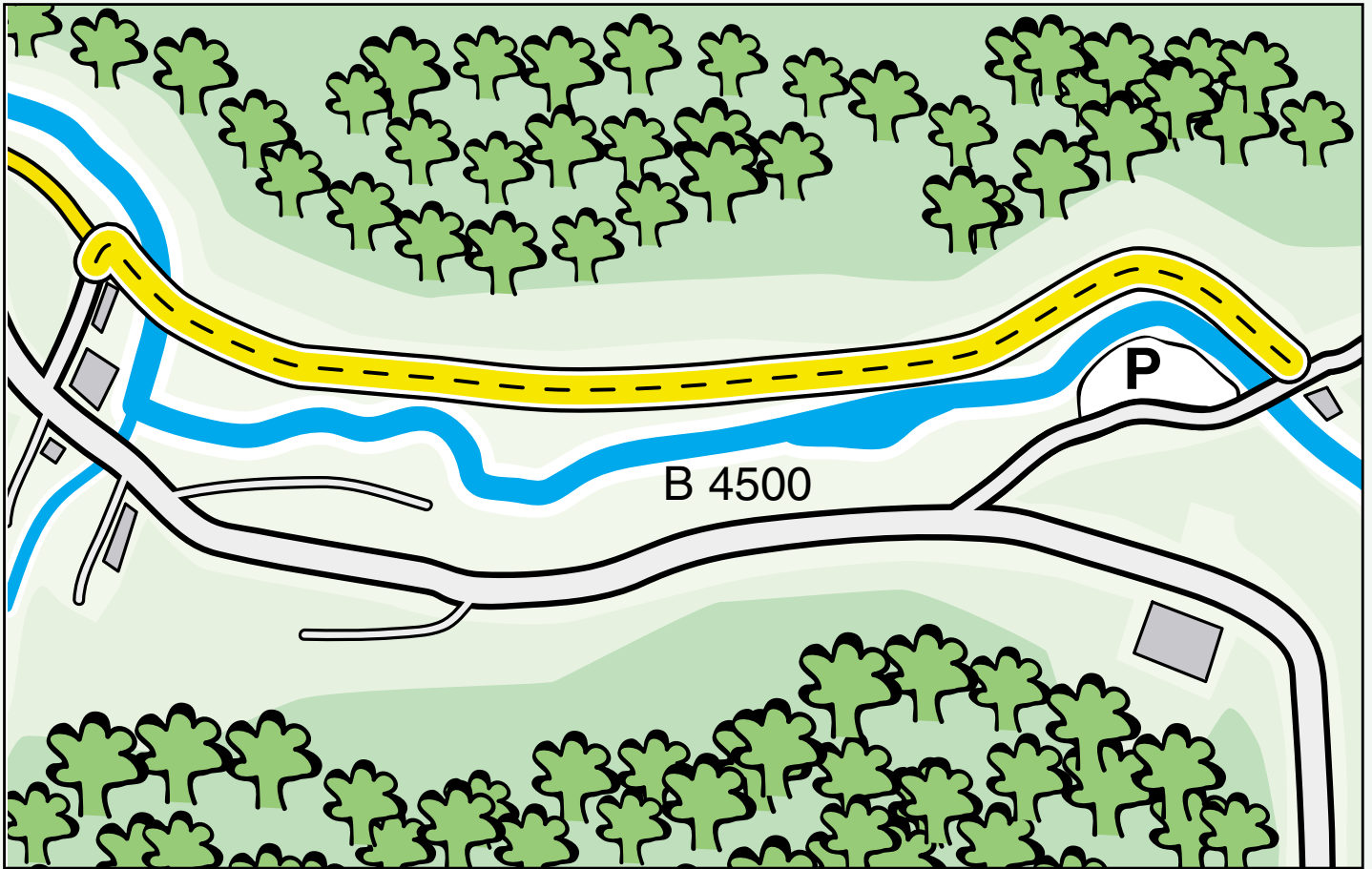
The return journey is along the same path.



## Walk 4 Glyn Ceiriog Tramway, Pandy, Ceiriog Valley

GR: SJ 1965 3592 OS: 255

Route 



**Bus** Bryn Melyn Llangollen 01978 860701 & Tanat Valley Coaches 01691 780212. Bus stop is approximately 150 metres from start of the path.

**Open** Always.

**Admission Charge** None.

**Summary** Linear route, 1.2km one-way.

**Access Provider** National Trust.

**Contact** Estates Manager at Chirk Castle, 01691 777991.

**Description** A pleasant walk along the riverside with wildflowers, dragon and damsel flies, best in summer due to drier conditions on the ground. The Old Tramway used to transport stone from Pandy and Hendre Quarries to Chirk.

**Parking** No public car park. Parking available by prior arrangement with Pont y Meibion Pony Trekking Centre on 01691 718333. Phone for details.

**Toilets** Nearest in Glyn Ceiriog R only.

**Information** None at present.

**Refreshments** Available at the Woolpack coffee shop & pub. Coffee shop open Mon 10.30am - 4.00pm, Thurs 10.30am - 4.00pm, Sun 10.30am - 4.00 pm. Main access down steep flight of stairs, but there is a wheelchair accessible residents lounge (please phone in advance to arrange this). Telephone **01691 718163**.

**Hazards** None noted.

**Rest Areas** No benches or perches.

**Path Surface** Most of the path is firm with the occasional small stone. The last 30 metres of the path is quite boggy with medium sized stones present. This last stretch can be avoided by turning back when it is reached. No other obstructions noted. Minimum width of path 90cm, but mainly wider.

**Gradient** Flat apart from small slope at start.

**Barriers** Two field gates that open freely.

**Other users** Horse riders and cyclists are allowed on the path, but do not appear to use it very frequently.

**Overhead clearance** Greater than 2 metres.

**Edge of path** Clearly defined by hedges.

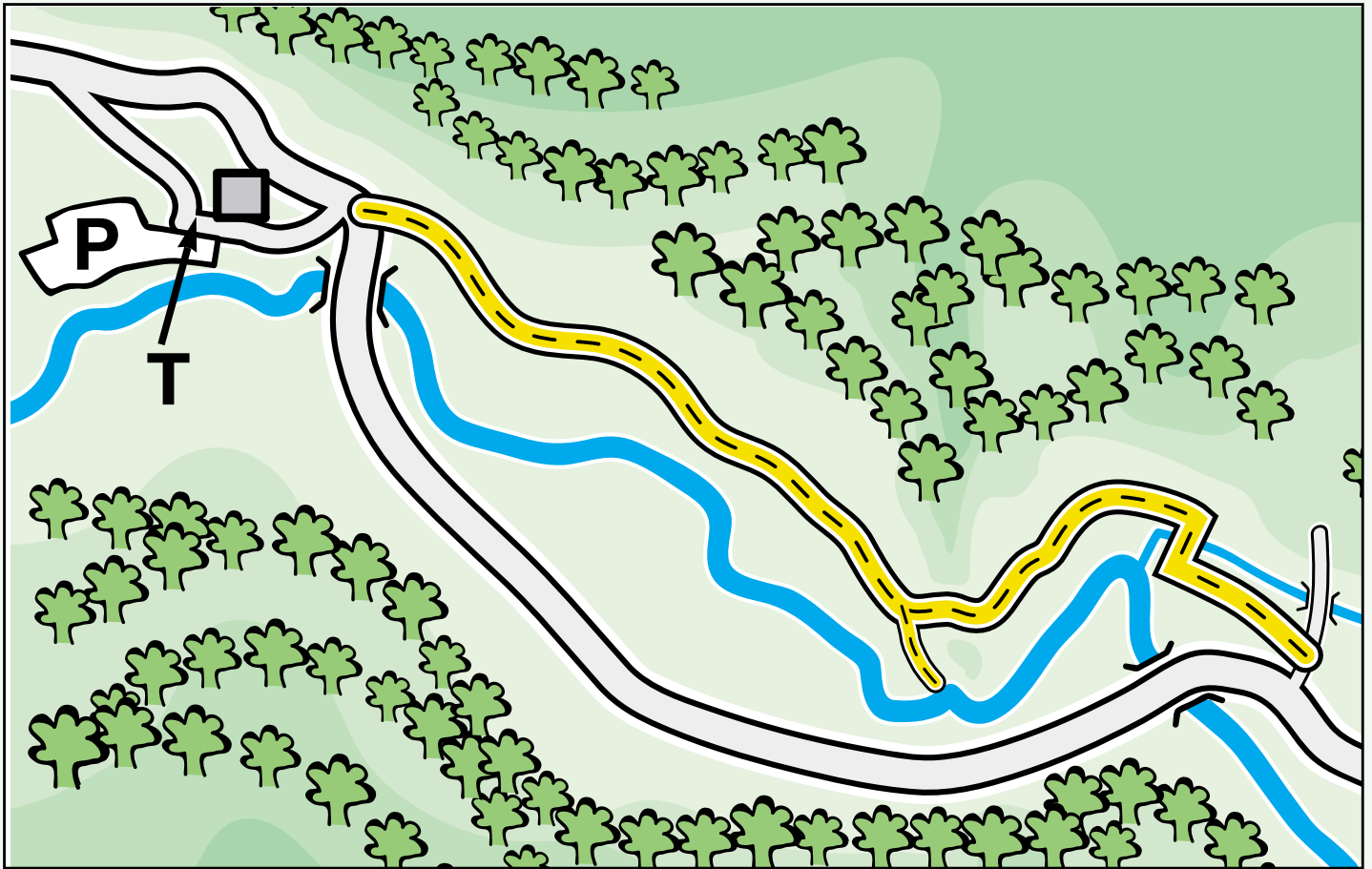
**Directions** Standing with the Woolpack building behind you, go down the small road to the right, past the bus stop. Go through the gate and turn right along the path. Continue straight until you reach the road and return by the same path.



## Walk 5 Nant Mill & Plas Power Woods

GR: SJ 2885 5020 OS: 256

Route 



**Bus** Arriva 0870 608 2608. Stop in Coedpoeth, 2km walk to the Visitor Centre.

**Open** Always.

**Admission Charge** None.

**Summary** Linear / Circular depending on requirements.

**Access Provider** Woodland Trust & Wrexham County Borough Council Countryside Services.

**Contact** Rangers 01978 752772.

**Description** This scenic and historic route goes past the old corn mill (now the visitor centre) and follows the River Clywedog through the woods to the bridge and back along the road.

**Parking** Unmarked parking spaces (approximately 20).

**Toilets** D and R (uneven path approaching the toilet).

**Information** Available in the visitor centre.

**Refreshments** Tea, coffee and snacks from Visitor Centre.



**Visitor Centre** Open 10.00am - 4.30pm, Easter to September Tues to Sun; October to Easter open weekends only.

**Hazards** There are some steep drops down to the river.

**Rest Areas** None along the path.

**Path Surface** Variable. The path up to the point where Offa's Dyke crosses it is quite firm with chippings of 2 - 3cm, over 1 metre wide. After this point the path deteriorates for a stretch and is quite stony and uneven. After this the path returns to its firm condition with one small stretch containing exposed tree roots, width 1 - 2 metres.

**Gradient** There is a moderate to steep gradient along the road to the first kissing gate. After this the path is quite flat up to the point where Offa's Dyke crosses at which there is a steep downhill section. The gradient then levels again.

**Barriers** There is a kissing gate at the start and 6 steps just before the path crosses the leet. There is a kissing gate to the road for the return circular journey.

**Other Users** Cyclists are not permitted, but use the path occasionally.

**Overhead Clearance** 1.5 - 3 metres.

**Edge of Path** Not clearly defined.

**Directions** With the visitor centre behind you, follow the road up to the left. Before the bridge go through the kissing gate on the left and follow the path straight ahead. After the path is crossed by Offa's Dyke (the path deteriorates for a stretch of approximately 50 metres) the path takes in a beautiful waterfall at this point. Continue straight ahead. After a short distance the path crosses the leet via 6 narrow steps. The return journey can either be back along the same route to avoid these steps or along the road.

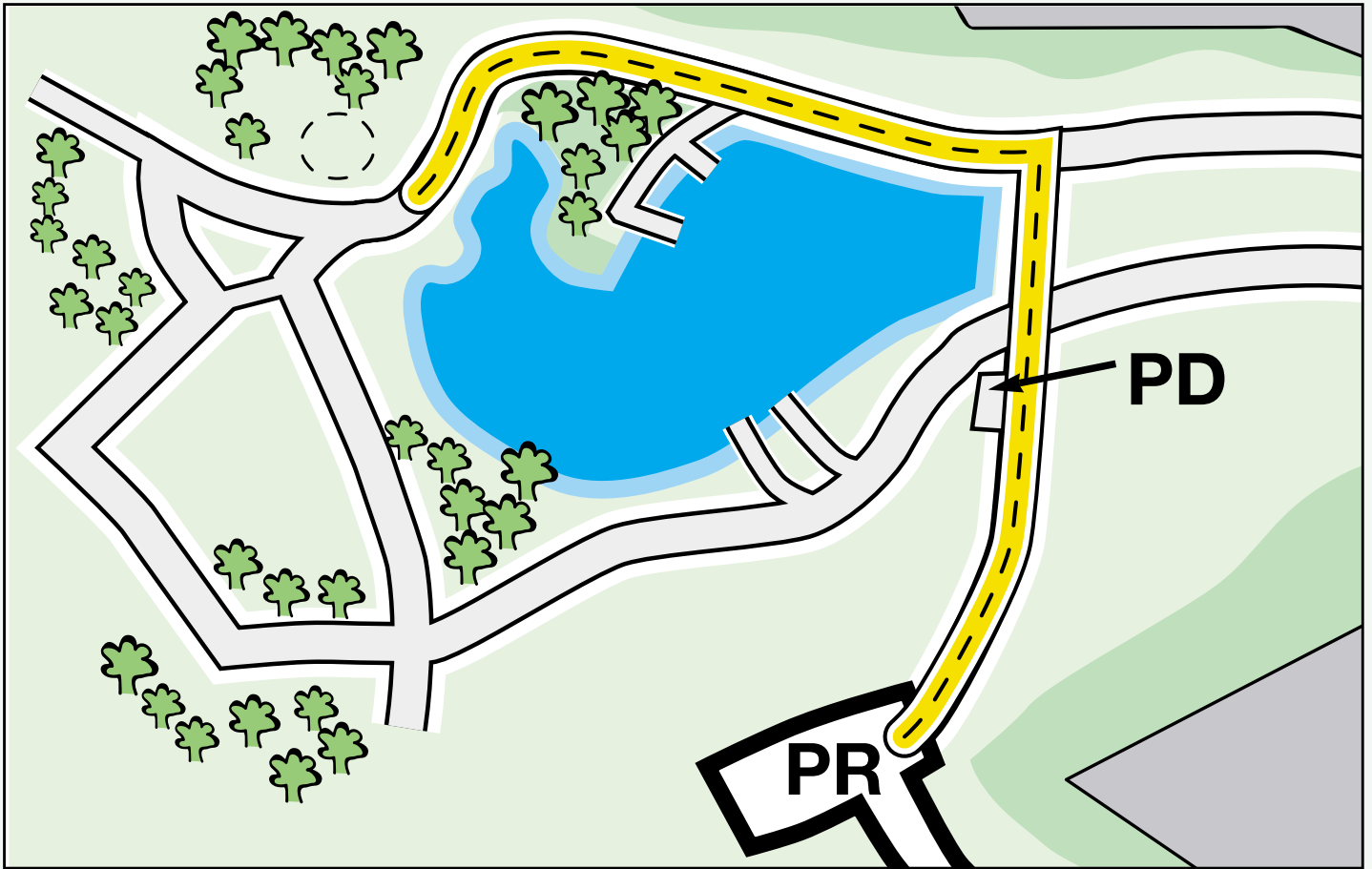




## Walk 6 Acton Park

GR: SJ 3460 5195 OS: 256

Route 



**Bus** 200 metres from car park on Herbert Jennings Avenue.

Arriva 0870 608 2608.

**Open** Always.

**Admission Charge** None.

**Summary** Linear route, 0.5km.

**Access Provider** Wrexham County Borough Council.

**Contact** Wrexham Parks Department 01978 292000.

**Description** This flat, short walk is very relaxing and takes in the lovely lake with its various wildfowl.

**Parking** Turn into Tapley Avenue and park. There are two parking spaces beside the lake; this will avoid the 100 metre slight slope down to the lake.

**Toilets** None.

**Information** None.

**Refreshments** None.

**Hazards** The path does not go very close to the lake, but there is no physical barrier between the lake and the path.

**Rest Areas** Benches or perches are every 100 metres.

**Path Surface** The path is tarmac with a width of 2 metres throughout. The quality is mainly good but there are a few potholes at the start of the walk.

**Gradient** Flat apart from a small slope at the start.

**Barriers** None noted.

**Other Users** General park users.

**Overhead Clearance** Mainly over 3 metres, in places 1 - 2 metres.

**Edge of path** only defined by the grass.

**Directions** Follow the path down from the car park around the right hand side of the lake. When the path begins to rise at the far side of the lake (after about 0.5km) turn back for the return journey.

Other: There are four wheelchair accessible fishing platforms in Acton Park and only a coarse fishing rod licence is required.

Fishing is not allowed between 14th March and 16th June.

## Walk 7 Ellesmere Mere

GR: SJ 4050 3475 OS: 241

Route 



**Bus** Arriva 0870 608 2608.

**Open** Always.

**Admission** No charge.

**Summary** Linear route, 1.3km one-way.

**Access Provider** Shropshire County Council.

**Contact** Countryside Services on 01691 623461 or the visitor centre on 01691 622981.

**Description** This flat scenic walk alongside the lake is an ideal place to see a wide range of wildlife.

**Parking** 4 D (kerbside parking, the kerb rising to 16cm), 20 R.

**Toilets** 1 D (flat access route, just 50m from D car parking) and Gents and Ladies R.

**Information** Ramped access to visitor centre open 10.00am - 1.00pm & 1.30pm – 5.00pm daily. Information boards at height of 75cm (not tactile).

**Refreshments** Available at the Boathouse for morning coffee, lunch and afternoon tea daily. Wide doorways and no steps to the tearoom. Disabled toilet 30 metres away. Dogs and guide dogs welcome. Tel. 01691 624816.

**Hazards** No barrier between the path and the lake.

**Rest Areas** At least every 60 metres for the first 300 metres of the path. Then at least every 100 metres for the next 500 metres. The last 500 metres of the path does not have a rest area. Picnic tables at height of 66cm.

**Path Surface** Firm, hard surface with chippings less than 1cm. Width of path over 2 metres. Path is smooth throughout.

**Gradient** Flat throughout.

**Barriers** One gate that is open. At 1.2km there is a stile. After this stile the path deteriorates and is not suitable for disabled access.

**Other Users** Some cyclists.

**Overhead clearance** Overhead clearance mainly over 2 metres, not less than 1.5 metres.

**Edge of path** Visually it is clearly defined, but there is no physical boundary to the path.

**Directions** Head out of Ellesmere on the A528 and park in the disabled car parking spaces on the left of the road. Start walking back towards Ellesmere and keep to the lakeside. Keep following this path until you reach the stile. After this the path deteriorates considerably. This is a good point to head back for a cup of tea at the Boathouse!

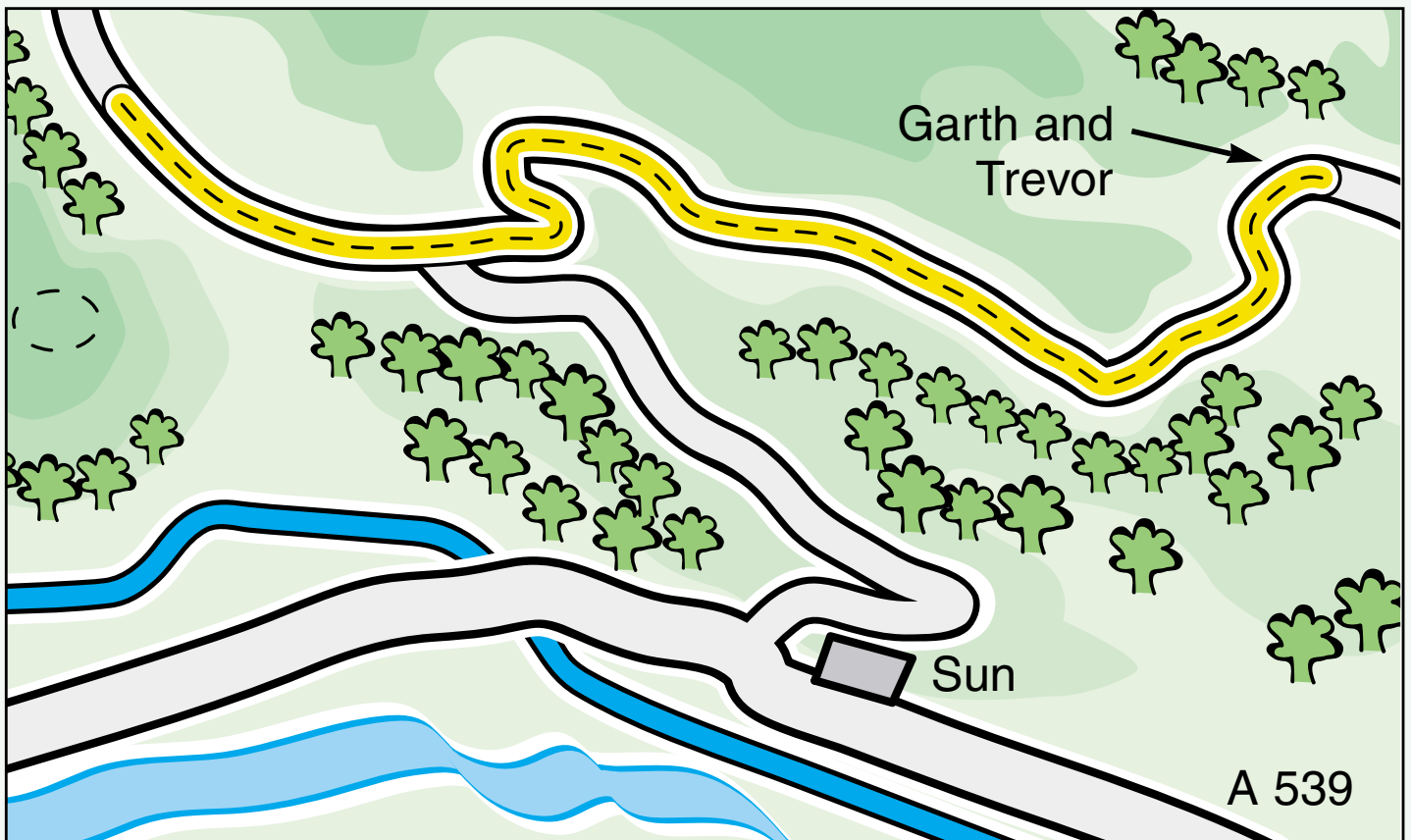
Rangers are available to guide visitors with special requirements, contact the Visitor Centre to book.

Fishing permits are available on a day permit basis. For details contact the Visitor Centre.

## Walk 8 Trevor Rocks

GR: SJ 2400 4295 OS: 256

Route 



**Bus** No service.

**Open** Always (minor road).

**Admission** No charge.

**Summary** Linear route along minor road. Any distance up to 1.5km can be walked.

**Contact** None.

**Description** The fabulous views over the Vale of Llangollen and Dinas Brân are breathtaking. The minor road provides a firm surface from which to take in the view.

**Parking** Various roadside parking areas (no charge).

**Toilets** Llangollen - Radar Key.

**Information** None.

**Refreshments** Ramped access to a wide doorway at the Prospect Garden Tea Room, which has stunning views over the valley. Telephone 01978 821602. Follow signs for the tearoom, open Wed to Fri 12.00noon – 5.00pm. Weekends and bank holidays 10.30am - 6.00pm. Easter to October only. Guide dogs welcome.

Also the Sun public house, Trevor which is situated on the main road to Llangollen. Access is possible with assistance. There are plans to improve access in the near future. Large toilet.

Tel 01978 860312

**Hazards** The minor road does not receive a large amount of traffic in the week, but it does increase at the weekends. There are some steep slopes at the edges of the road.

**Interest** Green Woodpeckers, Buzzards, Kestrels and Peregrines

**Rest Areas** Only occasional perches.

**Path Surface** Tarmac. Gradient varies from flat stretches to slopes. A route can be chosen according to preference and ability.

**Barriers** No gates or stiles.

**Other Users** Traffic.

**Overhead Clearance** Over 3 metres.

**Edge of path** defined by a grass verge.

**Directions** Follow signs to the 'Panorama' from the A539 to Llangollen. Park and walk at your leisure.



## Useful Contacts

Groundwork Wrexham & Flintshire 01978 363555.

### Disabled Support Groups and Information Services

Disability Wales, Flintshire Office 01352 751112  
(Disability information, advice, resource and development services).

The Fieldfare Trust, 0114 2701668 (Promotes enjoyment and education in the countryside for all sections of the community).

Disabled Riding Association.  
Disability Forum, Wrexham.  
Wrexham Access Group.  
Disabled Ramblers.

### Access Providers

The Woodland Trust 01476 581135.

CADW 02920 500200.

Countryside Services, Wrexham County Borough Council 01978 358916.

Public Rights of Way, Wrexham County Borough Council 01978 292057.

National Trust 01492 860123.

Forest Enterprise Wales 01938 557400.

The help of the following is acknowledged in the production of this booklet:  
AVOW.

The Disability Forum.

RNIB.

Cunliffe Day Opportunities.

Dynamic.

Fieldsman Trails.

Wrexham Access Group.

Supported by the Garfield Weston Foundation.

