

## Dog friendly walk near Oswestry by Pam Johnson

### Rhydycroesau Woods

Grid ref: SJ236299

**Lots of easy, way-marked, stone-surfaced paths, information points, and some industrial archaeology!**

This is a 100 acre woodland owned by friends of ours who welcome walkers and have made the woodland entirely open to the public. The woods are being managed under a conservation/landscape agreement by the local farmer with full public access. He has created lot of tracks and paths (many signposted) for you to wander at will. There are even strategically situated benches, a bird hide, and some compost toilets if you get caught short! Walkers are welcome, and as there is no stock your dog can run to his/her hearts content!.

To find the woodland -

From Rhydycroesau Village Hall take the road opposite and turn right towards the Pen y Dyffryn Hotel.

Drive past the hotel into the woodland and the lane opens out into a parking area with an information board.

There are countless tracks and diversions but you can't really get permanently lost! Watch for badgers, foxes, polecats and many birds of prey.

A nice walk of about 50 minutes is to take the left fork about 50 metres after entering the wood. Then, after about half a mile, take the next left (sign the visitor's book here) climbing steeply up the hill, past a handy bench, towards a delightful bird hide on your right in a real wilderness of natural tree species. Hidden in the undergrowth is the undercarriage of a Second World War Wellington bomber that crashed here in 1942 - see if you can find it! Then bear right along the top of the cliffs keeping to the highest part of the ridge (there are little white marker posts). After about half a mile you find another signpost inviting you to turn right down a large stone track. Follow this back to the Hotel.

Another walk, with added "industrial archaeology" interest, is to take the right fork 50 metres after entering wood. Follow this track down to

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the stream and cross by the bridge. See organic loo on your right! After another 50 metres cross back over stream and briefly divert to your left. Here can be seen the Vyrnwy Tunnel, transporting Liverpool's water about 60 miles by gravity from Lake Vyrnwy. Return to main track and follow broad stone track on left side of stream back up to tarmac road. Take your pick of a quick return to the car park, or ascend steps through wood for more adventures.