



20 CARDIFF GARTH HILL

■ Distance: 4¾ miles/7.7km ■ Time: 3 hours ■ Grade: Moderate

SEE
FEATURE
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Cardiff and distant Exmoor
from high on Garth Hill.



PHOTO: TOM BAILEY



CHOSEN BY...
JENNY WALTERS

The Garth is a beloved Cardiff landmark, with expansive views south across the city and the Bristol Channel to Exmoor, and north to the Brecon Beacons. It is also the inspiration for *The Englishman who went up a hill but came down a mountain*, in which two cartographers measure the peak in 1917 and declare it is just shy of the 1000-foot that would make it a mountain. Enraged, the villagers add a 20-foot mound to the top to push it through the benchmark height. You will find a large mound at the summit, but it's a Bronze Age tumulus, built around 4000 years ago.

1 Start

Exit station to west and cross Cardiff Road. Go ahead over footbridge across River Taff, then turn R. Follow path beside river, later bearing L to road. Cross and go up steps ahead between houses to Llys Tripp cul de sac. Go ahead, then take first road R. At far end continue on footpath to next road (School Lane). Go straight on for about 100m, then L into woods, soon joining surfaced path up hill. At major fork go L, later passing Lan Colliery sign (and memorial to disaster on R) to road.

2 ½ mile/1km

Cross to footpath opposite and keep on up hill, staying on

PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking Taff's Well station, grid ref ST124831, postcode CF15 7PE.

If driving, free parking along Cardiff Road

Is it for me? Woodland and hill paths, bit of a maze in places, one climb, a few busy roads to cross
Stiles None

PLANNING

Nearest town Taff's Well

Refreshments Cafés/ pubs/shops in Taff's Well

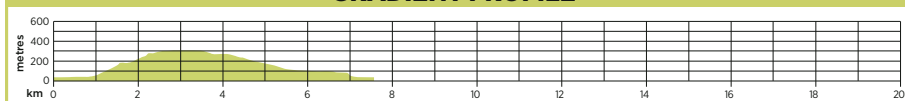
Public toilets None

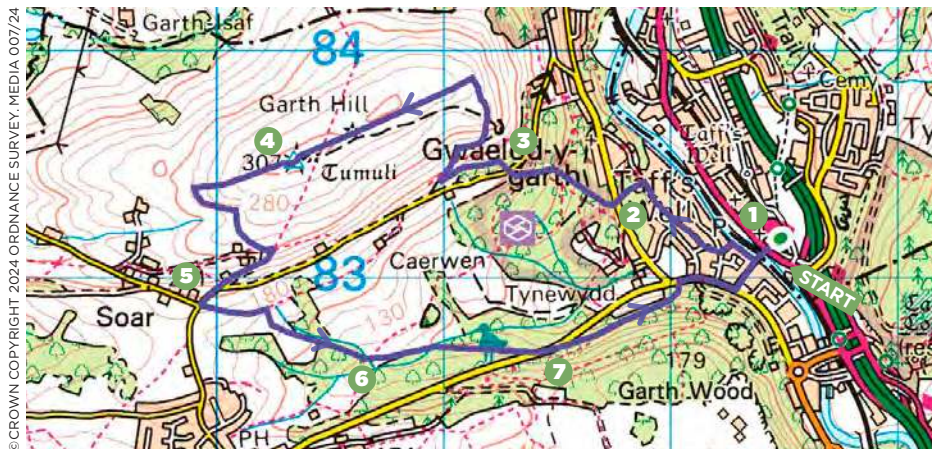
Public transport Trains from Cardiff, Bridgend and Merthyr Tydfil (tfw.wales)

Maps OS Explorer 151; Landranger 171

main path to obvious fork. Ignore L path up to gate, and turn R – not along ditch, but on bank up to R of it. Walk uphill, ditch to L, continuing straight on up through series of path junctions to gate on R.

GRADIENT PROFILE



20 CARDIFF
GARTH HILL■ OS Explorer map 151 ■ Buy maps at: [ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop](https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop)

Go through gate and up across grass to lane.

3 1 mile/1.7km

Cross to dirt path opposite and climb, fairly steeply, to path junction. Turn L to contour round hillside. Keep R at fork by waymark post, go past bench and up to another post. Turn hard R and follow path up; it's steep, and stepped in places. Keep L at fork. At next junction, keep ahead to reach eastern end of Garth's ridge. Turn L (west) and walk along crest to triangulation point on tumulus.

4 2¼ miles/3.5km

Continue west along crest, later descending towards gate. Don't go through, but turn L on faint path shortly before, with fence to R. Follow as it curves L round hillside, then swings R to head south (fence

still to R). At fork, bear L, then straight on through path junction to broad track beyond. Turn R downhill, joining drive and later lane to descend to T-junction.

5 3 miles/4.8km

Turn L on road (take care; it's narrow and bendy) and very soon go L up steps and through gate. Follow path across field and through another gate. Turn R, then later bear L with path, down through another gate to meet broad track. Turn R on it and walk to path junction.

6 3½ miles/5.6km

Turn L and at next post, go R on grassy path (signed permissive footpath) through gate into Coed y Bedw nature reserve. Bear L to follow main path ahead through woods (stream on R to start). On

reaching fork after 400m, keep R and walk up to road.

7 4 miles/6.4km

Cross road, angling slightly L to go through gap by gate to track. Turn L to follow through woods, keeping ahead at junction by clearing/post. At next junction with waymarker post, fork L onto lower path, then L again as signed. At next split, keep R with path sign and drop down to road. Cross over, and turn R on pavement, following main road to public footpath sign on L. Turn here to pass houses and cross bridge over River Taff to start. **CW**

OPEN IN OS MAPS

OR VISIT

[walk1000miles.co.uk/cwroutes](https://www.walk1000miles.co.uk/cwroutes)