

Dinas Circular Walks

Rhiwelli Viewpoint

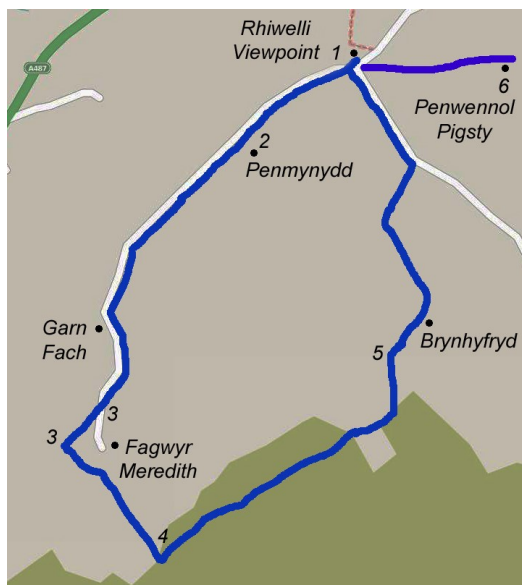
Terrain : Country lanes and open grazing land. One moderate gradient. **O.S. Map - 1: 50,000 - No. 157**

Distance: 2.4 km or 1½ miles **Duration:** ¾ hour

Public Transport: Hourly bus service along the main road - A487 - Richards Service Bus No. 412 - between Cardigan, Newport, Fishguard and Haverfordwest - alight at Kiel House mini market, Dinas. Walk 50m westwards along the main road and turn left into a minor road signposted to the viewpoint and the Gwaun Valley. Pass Machpelah Cemetery and climb a steep hill with two hairpin bends to Rhiwelli Viewpoint - about 1.2km or ¾ mile

Poppit Rocket - Bus No. 405 - Fishguard to Poppit Sands stopping at Kiel House, Brynhenllan and Pwllgwaelod. Seasonal hail and ride service - 3 times daily.

Car Park: Rhiwelli Viewpoint **Toilets:** None



1. Rhiwelli Viewpoint - (GR - SN 011 383)

Start at Rhiwelli Viewpoint - note the spectacular view of the coastal plain from Fishguard Bay in the west to Newport Bay and the Preseli Hills in the east. On a clear day, Snowdon and the Llyn Peninsula can be seen across Cardigan Bay. The hamlets of Bwlchmawr, Brynhenllan, Jericho and the Cross make up the village of Dinas below.



2. Take the minor road heading west towards Fishguard. After passing Penmynydd cottage on the left, the flat-topped hillock of 'Castell' can be seen in middle distance below, where a fortified settlement once stood. On the coast can be seen the inlet of Aberbach.



3. At **Fagwyr Meredith lane**, go straight ahead, crossing over the style and continuing along the grassy lane to the next fingerpost. Turn left at the fingerpost and look upwards to the rocky outcrops of Dinas Mountain. The most prominent outcrop is Garn Fawr, the highest point on Dinas Mountain. Follow the waymarked path uphill, through old grazing fields enclosed by dry stone walls - these are the Preseli Bluestones [*dolerite of Stonehenge fame*] and beyond there are traces of ancient settlements. The dry stone walls are encrusted with lichens, mosses and stonecrop.



4. As the fields give way to uncultivated moor, bear left at the waymark briefly following the dry stone wall that leads to open heathland. The yellow gorse makes a striking contrast to the purple heather in spring and summer.



Proceed north-eastwards across the heathland towards a dry stone wall. Cross the stile and continue towards a second dry stone wall, heading for the old thorn tree bent by the prevailing winds. This section can be very wet underfoot as springs emerge from the hillside. Go through the gate and walk along the waymarked old cart track. Looking east, Cemaes Head and Newport Bay come into view.



5. The next gate is set between high stone walls and leads to a grassy path. Go through the gate and in summer look out for the whinberries (bilberries) that grow in places along the walls. The path leads into a lane that joins the Dinas Mountain road.



On reaching the road, turn left and go downhill back to Rhiwelli Viewpoint.

A brief excursion:-

6. **The Pigsty** - Opposite the entrance to the car park at Rhiwelli Viewpoint take the path which runs obliquely eastwards from the bend in the road across open heath. Go through the gate along the grassy path and about 300m further on go through a second gate. Immediately on the right is a rare example of a corbel-roofed pigsty built of local Preseli stone. It has recently been restored by the National Park. The pigsty was part of a smallholding called Penwennol and the ruins of the old cottage and outbuildings can be seen on the opposite side of the lane. Return to Rhiwelli Viewpoint by the same route.



Points of Interest:

- Magnificent coastal views.
- Ancient lanes and rocky outcrops.
- Wildlife including swallows, stonechats, sky larks, meadow pipits, wheatears, sparrow hawks, kestrels, buzzards, red kites and ravens.
- Rare corbel-roofed pigsty.



Pembrokeshire Coast
National Park



Visit Wales



Yr Hen Ysgol