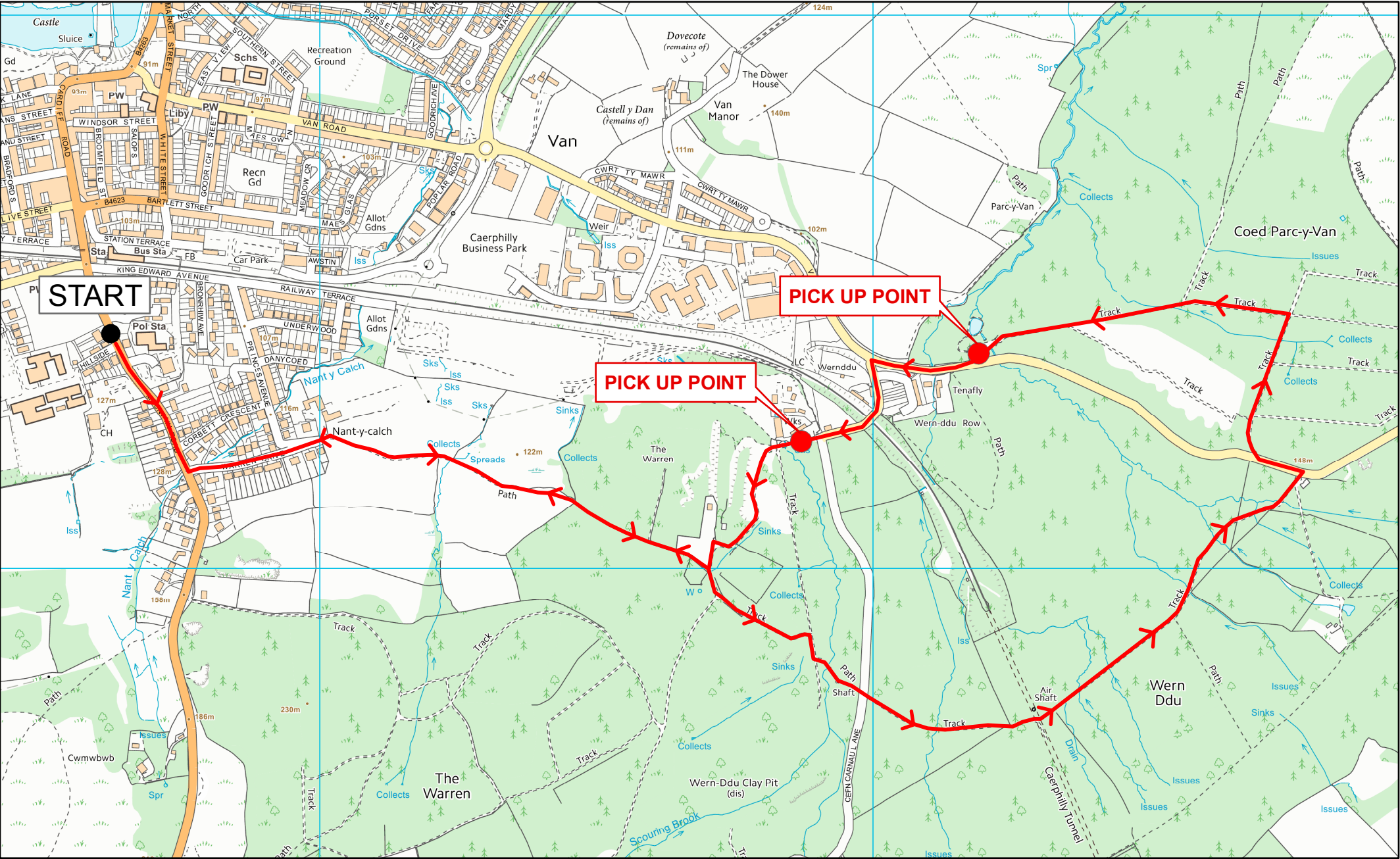


1 - 5 MILE ROUTE

1:9,000



Institute for Geological Conservation has excavated an embankment here to expose the Rhondda No2 coal seam which is about 300million years old.

The main entrance to Coed y Werin is the first pick up point for those wanting a shorter walk.

3. Leaving Coed y Werin we cross Cefn Carnau Lane and continue through Coed Wernddu walking past a tower which is an air shaft for the railway tunnel which runs under Caerphilly Mountain. As we leave Coed Wernddu you will see the remains of Lime Kilns which were built in the 1840's by John Edmunds. They were used to burn locally quarried Limestone to create quick lime which could be used to improve soil fertility by making it less acid; make a breathable mortar for building or make a breathable 'stone wash' for painting the outside walls of buildings.
4. Leaving Coed Wernddu we walk for about 90 yards /100 metres on Van Road to enter Coed Parc y Van. This road is very well used so please be careful.
5. Coed Parc y Van was probably owned by the owners of the nearby Van Mansion which was built on the site of an earlier house in the 1580's by Edward ap Lewis. In the mid 18thC it became part of the estate of the Earl of Plymouth, one of the largest landowners in South Wales. Over the years its appearance has been changed several times by additions and demolition. In its grounds can be found what is reputed to be the largest Dovecote in Britain. Both the Mansion and the Dovecote are Grade 2 Listed Buildings.

Coed Parc y Van is currently owned by Welsh Government and is managed for them by Natural Resources Wales (NRW). The main features in the woodland are 6 lines of 'jumps' especially created for 'stunt bicycle riding' by the volunteers of the Van Road Trails Group (VRTG) with the support of NRW and the local community. The 'jumps' range from beginner through to competition expert level, they are free to use and are maintained by VRTG.

The car park at Coed Parc y Van is the second pick up point for those who want a shorter walk.

6. The last section of the walk is about 1.3 miles / 2 km in length. We leave Coed Parc y Van to return to the main entrance of Coed y Werin via Van Rd & Cefn Carnau Lane. Be careful as we walk alongside and cross these roads. We then follow a track leading to the Warren & the footpath through Nant y caich Farm to Warren Drive, Mountain Road and St Martins School.

THE FORGE 1 - 5 MILES

The Warren, Coed Wernddu, Coed y Werin & Coed Parc y Van

This circular walk is just over 4 miles in length and will take us through the woodlands of the Warren, Wernddu, Coed y Werin and Coed Parc y Van. Keep a lookout for woodland flowers, birds and remnants of past industrial activity.

Some of the paths are uneven and suitable footwear will be needed but, unless it has been raining heavily, they should be firm underfoot. One kissing gate and a stile have to be negotiated; both are close to start of the walk. At several points we walk next to, on or cross roads so special care will be needed here. Dogs are welcome but must be kept on a lead.

The whole walk should take about 2 ¼ hours. For those wishing a shorter walk there are two bus pick up points; the first at the main entrance to Coed y Werin (approx. 1.3 miles / 2 kms) and the second in the car park at Coed Parc y Van (approx. 2.8 miles / 4.5 kms).

The Walk

1. Leaving St Martins School we walk up Mountain Road, using the pavement, to Warren Drive. Mountain Road is very busy so please take care on the pavement and when crossing the road. At Warren Drive we join a footpath which crosses the fields of Nant y caich farm, which are often grazed by livestock, and enter the beech woods of the Warren.
2. From the Warren we walk into Coed Wernddu and through the 23 acres/ 9.3 ha of Coed y Werin. This part of Wernddu was purchased by the Caerphilly Woodland Trust in 2002 to prevent it being used for landfill. It is still actively managed by the Trust and is a designated Site of Importance for Nature Conservation as it is home for a large variety of wildlife and woodland plants.

Wernddu and particularly Coed y Werin were areas where clay was extracted to make bricks at the Caerphilly Brickworks and remnants of this industrial activity can still be seen. The clay workings exposed exceptionally and internationally important Carboniferous and Westphalian A, B and C Coal Measure Rocks. As a result Coed y Werin has also been designated a Geological Site of Special Scientific Interest. The British