

WVW Easy Access Walks

Walk Title Erwood Craft Centre and riverside

Distance and time Approx 0.6 miles (1km).

Brief description of the walk, path conditions and facilities

Formerly a part of the Great Western Railway serving mid Wales until 1962, Erwood Station has been converted into a craft centre and gallery, promoting the work of local artists and craftspeople. As well as displaying the work of over 70 individuals, monthly exhibitions are arranged and two restored railway carriages serve as permanent galleries for members of the Platform One Artists and Designer-makers. Woodworking courses are also organized here.

Car park, picnic and toilet facilities are provided and refreshments are available during the normal opening hours between 10am and 5.30pm. The old signal box provides an information point and bird hide for Radnorshire Wildlife Trust. Otters and kingfishers have been spotted on this walk. More general information about the area is available in the Craft Centre.

The riverside walk is very narrow (30cm wide) in places and there are many exposed tree roots, and moderate slopes (1:6) which could be a hazard to some users. There are also 3 steps to negotiate.

Please note that in wet conditions the surface of natural paths can be prone to become more uneven and difficult to negotiate.

Start point for the walk

Erwood Station Craft Centre and Gallery is located 6 miles (9.6 km) south of Builth Wells, signposted with brown tourist signs. Half a mile before entering Erwood (from north) or after leaving Erwood (from south), leave the A470 to cross the river on to the B4547. At the T-junction turn left and the craft centre is on the left.

Relevant OS Maps

Explorer Map 188 – Builth Wells

Outdoor Leisure Map 147 – Elan Valley and Builth Wells

Detailed Walk description

From the car park, walk towards the station building passing the old signal box on your left. Follow the path through a wicket gate (70cm wide) near the sign 'Riverside Walk'. The narrow path, only 30cm wide in places, runs parallel with the former railway line and the river can be glimpsed through the trees, down on the left. Take care when stepping over the numerous exposed tree roots along the path which widens out as it approaches a metal gate (1 metre wide), on the left corner of a grassy meadow. Beyond the gate, the path again narrows to 30cm and continues along a corridor strip between fences (path width 1.2–2m). There are more exposed tree roots.

After a further 200m the path reaches a belt of mixed woodland and begins to descend (1:6) towards a footbridge. There is one step (15cm) up to the bridge and two steps down beyond. The path, now averaging 60cm wide, then levels out and enters a rhododendron thicket. Some overhead branches are only 1.3m above the path, so mind your head! Go through a second metal gate to reach the river bank. There are some flat rocks on the left of the path, making this a pleasant stopping point.

Retrace your steps from here to return to the Craft Centre, or leave the riverside as directed by the signs to join the B4567 from which it is easy to access footpaths onto the hill (part of Ireland Moor) and to Prince Llywelyn's Cave and the river Edw valley.