

A trip along Clydach's canal path

OS Land Ranger map 159 & 170

The Swansea Canal tow path along the beautiful River Tawe and Swansea Canal is one of the favourite routes for walkers and cyclists living in and around the Swansea Valley.

This popular path follows the canal for several miles and is part of the National Cycle Network route 43. The keenest of cyclists can ride from Swansea to Coelbren in just one day. As well as a path for cyclists, the canal section is a great route for families who love wildlife and who like a variety of landscapes.

At the villages of Clydach and Glais, the canal is part of Sustrans' Connect2 scheme to create walking and cycling networks for everyday journeys by foot and by bike. As part of the Connect2 scheme, this section of the route will receive an injection of cash to restore, improve and lengthen the paths over the coming years.

These improvements will provide links into Glais with alternative, and a much improved crossing over the River Tawe by refurbishing the existing but currently un-loved railway bridge.

Why not get out on your bike to get a look before and after? The route has so much to offer as it stands. Families can park in the car park at Coed Gwilym Park near St Josephs Primary and travel north towards Ystalyfera; where the path follows the canal towards Pontardawe and then along the banks of the river Tawe where you can take in the splendid scenery.

In addition, the Connect2 scheme will improve the southern sections of the route, opening up the paths for both residents and visitors alike. There are cafes in Clydach and Pontardawe

Helen Davies



Where the path goes under the main road by Coed Gwilym Park