

Ride: Neath Canal

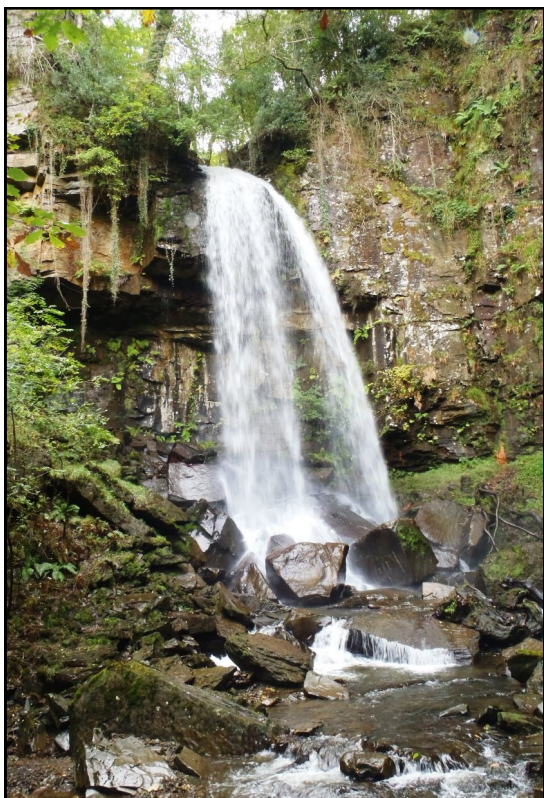
Start/Finish: McDonald's, Briton Ferry

Distance: 21/11 miles (3/2 hours plus stops)

Level: Moderate/Gentle

Map: OS 1:50,000 Sheet 170 *Vale of Glamorgan*.

This is a lovely ride, particularly in the Autumn. It follows the Neath Canal nearly all the way to Resolven. Part of the return is on road via the magnificent Melincourt Falls (pictured). You can however return from the half way point and still enjoy the best of the canal.



From MacDonald's cross the A48 at the roundabout and follow National Cycle Route 4 towards Swansea. Turn left onto NCR 47 at the start of the Briton Ferry Bridge. This takes you under the bridge to the canal.

The path follows the canal, mostly on the left (west) side. It is mainly gravel which, apart from a few short bumpy sections, is fine for cycling. There are one or two low bridges under which you need to duck and some barriers. Between them you can enjoy long lovely stretches beside the still waters of the canal.

It is three miles to Neath. At a junction here ignore the arrow pointing to the right, just keep straight on. After two miles the path crosses the road to Tonna. Turn left onto this road and immediately right under an arch. Here the Tennant and Neath canals meet. This is where you might turn back for the shorter option.

In a little over two miles the canal crosses the river and goes under the A465. There are benches here making it a pleasant spot to stop for a picnic. Another mile and a bit and you reach an open area. Bear left here to join the B4242 which you follow to Resolven. It is less than a mile

Turn right into Resolven and in half a mile right again onto the B4434. In less than a mile you come to Melincourt. Immediately across the stream there is a car park on the right and opposite it Marion Hall beside which a path leads to the waterfall. It is narrow and rough for cycling so walk. It is only a quarter of a mile.

Two miles from here the B4434 comes close to the Canal. This is a good point to rejoin the canal for a flat return to the start. A shorter but hillier alternative is to continue on the B4434 through Tonna to Neath and then the A474 back to MacDonalds.

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