

## **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 (and back) 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.

The route where it passes through the village of Clydach was in 2012 upgraded, in part paid for by Connect2 lottery funds. Just south of Clydach it crosses the River Tawe on a rejuvenated railway bridge which is noteworthy for its art work. The section alongside the canal to the north of this bridge has also been improved. There is a new link from just south of the bridge to the village of Glais to the east.

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 to Pontardawe and then along the banks of the river Tawe where you can take in the splendid scenery. Where you join the path at Coed Gwilym Park there is an information centre and a 'portrait bench' which features cut out metal statues of local celebrities.

In addition, the Connect2 scheme has improved other 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