There is an old tradition in the Ceiriog Valley that you always get a little more than you ask for!
So buy this pack of five walks and you get the sixth one free, just ‘for luck’!

The Ceiriog Country Code
Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work.
Guard against all risk of fire.
Leave gates as you find them.
Keep any dogs under close control.
No dogs during lambing!
Keep to public rights of way across farmland.
Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls.
Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone.
Take all litter home.
Keep all water clean.
Protect wildlife, plants and trees.
Take great care on narrow country lanes.
Make no unnecessary noise.
Promote goodwill with all users of the land.

If you encounter a problem with the route, please report the details to:
The Rights of Way Officer,
Wrexham County Borough Council, Crown Buildings,
PO Box 1293, Wrexham LL11 1WQ.
Telephone (01978) 292057.

Welcoming walks in the Ceiriog Valley
This is one of a series of leaflets detailing walks, rides and general information on locations within Chirk and the Ceiriog Valley. Others describe walk routes from Pontfadog; Glyn Ceiriog; and ‘The Ceiriog Valley Walk’. Separate leaflets give walk and heritage details for Chirk; and Llanarmon D.C. There is a Cycle Route, two longer-distance trail booklets and an overview, ‘A Little Bit of Heaven on Earth’. The set gives comprehensive cover to the whole of this beautiful valley. Almost all are also available in Welsh.
**Pandy  Pontricket  Tregeiriog**
The cluster of hamlets where we start our walks

Each walk description shows the distance, height gain and estimated walking time based on an average. Please add on any time for stops. The paths are well signposted and individually waymarked with a letter corresponding to the description.

_It is strongly recommended_ that you carry an Ordnance Survey map no. 255, “Berwyn and Llangollen”, and a compass.

_For your own safety_, wear boots with a strong heavy tread and take warm and waterproof clothing, a drink and a snack. Whilst these walks are all on public or permissive rights of way, please remember that you are crossing private land. Respect the land and the people who earn their living from it. Please read the **CEIRIOG COUNTRY CODE** printed on the back page. Local people will almost always appreciate a friendly word from walkers, so please find the time to stop and speak!

**THE DISTRICT**
The three hamlets lie along the valley floor, linked on the NW side of the valley by the B4500 road, and on the SE side by the “Ceiriog Valley Way” footpath. Each hamlet has its distinctive character and history.

Pandy is the Welsh word for a fulling mill, where home-produced woven fabric is mixed with fullers earth and other products to bring up the nap and so produce the renowned Welsh Flannel. This particular mill is thought to be the oldest fulling mill in Wales, having later been used as a pub, and now offering refreshment and accommodation to visitors. Mineral extraction was also important here, with silica, dolerite (a form of granite) and China Stone being excavated. Craig y Pandy - Pandy Crags, made of volcanic tuffs, dominates the hamlet.

Pontricket is agricultural, and has a fine bridge which has for centuries carried drovers’ ways over the swiftly flowing Ceiriog. Even earlier there was a ford here thought to be the site of a battle in 1165. The hamlet had its own school, shared with Tregeiriog, until 1948, and the old School House is now open to the public as The Celtic Garden and Gallery.

Tregeiriog is also a river crossing-place, which once had a hotel, shops, Post Office, cheese factory and two chapels. It is now a pleasant residential and agricultural hamlet.

**PARKING**
Parking is very limited. At Coed y Glyn Uchaf, there is room for about 3 or 4 cars, and there is a good layby at Pontricket. In Tregeiriog there is a small parking area behind the bus shelter. We recommend that you come by bus or taxi if possible. The bus will stop anywhere sensible by request.

**SERVICES**
Pandy and Tregeiriog both have phone boxes, and refreshment is available at Pandy. The nearest shops are in Glyn Ceiriog and alternative refreshment in either Llanarmon or Glyn Ceiriog.

**DONT RUSH AWAY!**
Stay for a few days to enjoy plenty of lovely walks in the Ceiriog Valley, or you may wish to extend your outings up into the impressive and solitary Berwyn mountains.

This is one of 11 leaflets produced by the Partnership which give loads of information about the area. There is a wide selection of Hotel, Guest House, B & B and self-catering premises, and 2 good caravan and camping sites. Details from the Tourist Information Centres at Llangollen 01978 860828, Wrexham 01978 292015, and Oswestry 01691 662488. Or use the Freephone booking service on 0800 834820 or 08705 168767. Try web-sites; www.borderlands.co.uk www.VisitWales.com or www.nwt.co.uk

**PLEASE HELP US PRESERVE OUR BEAUTIFUL VALLEY**
The people who live and work in the valley are proud that it remains largely unspoilt, peaceful and not swarming with visitors! We welcome those who love and respect the countryside, and we do ask you to respect the Ceiriog Country Code and to take special care during lambing time, generally in March and April.
Walk ‘A’

Both sides of the Ceiriog River.

A lovely level(ish) low loop.

3.5 km. (2 miles); height gain 80m. (250ft.); allow 1 hour 10 mins.

Come by bus to Tregeiriog; or park behind the bus shelter in Tregeiriog. Grid ref. SJ 178338 (Or you could start at Pontricket layby, Grid Ref. SJ 186343, but you would need to walk south on the main road for 2 mins. and then read the directions from the point marked ∗)

From Tregeiriog crossroads, take the minor lane uphill for 3 mins. and over a stile by the first field gate on the right. Follow the grassy track sharp right which rises to an open field. Keep ahead above the hedgerow for about 8 mins. to reach a stile. (Across the stile, the official path goes through a field and the private garden of a house, but to avoid this intrusion and to improve the route, the landowner has created an alternative permissive path). So do not cross the stile, but go through the gate to it’s left, keeping above the hedgerow and fence passing above the house to another stile where the official path re-emerges from the garden. Then strike out diagonally uphill aiming for a stile (and mini-wind generator) to emerge onto a tarmac lane. Turn right, downhill for about 5 mins. to reach and cross the main B4500 valley road.

∗ By a post box, take the lane leading down to the left, and in a couple of minutes to the fine two-arched river bridge. Continue ahead on the lane for 150m. and soon after the lane swings right, go through a field gate on the right. Take the middle of 3 ways, briefly between fences to a gate/stile and ahead on level ground just below the hedge. In 4 mins. cross a stile and continue between hedge and trees for 5 mins. See “Siamese sycamore trees” joined near the foot, and cross a small stream and stile. (The section ahead is on a permitted path and if for any reason it cannot be used, take the definitive path which aims for the farmhouse above you, then turn right down the lane). Follow the right fence, over a stile, and keep level close to the right fence for 4 mins. to reach a tarmac gated lane. Go right, through the gate, and ahead on the lane for 5 mins. to reach a crossroads by Tregeiriog bridge. Turn right across the bridge and ahead for 4 mins. back to Tregeiriog village crossroads.
The Siambr Gerrig Circuit

Siambr Gerrig translates as the ‘stone chamber’

A small delightful valley and fantastic views!
5 km. (3 1/2 miles); height gain 200m. (670ft.);
allow 1 3/4 hours walking.

Come by bus to Pontricket Farm; or park on the B4500 at Pontricket layby. Grid ref. SJ 186343.

From the layby, follow the main road south for 2 mins. and take the lane sharply left down to the two-arch river bridge. Go ahead for 100m., ignoring a track off to the left. As the lane bends right, take the gate on your left, ahead into a meadow. Ahead again, heading for the dip in the skyline (or in mist follow the left hedgeline and stream) to the top of the field to pass through a gate in the right hedgerow. For 1 min. keep parallel to the left hedge, briefly join a track over a stream and follow the left stream up the field for 5 minutes and through a gate. You now join a clear track going sharp right then left and ahead. The backward views from this point take in Pontricket, Tregeiriog, and the backcloth of the high Berwyn ridge. Ignore a side track on right just before crossing the stream. Keep the stream close on your right, the track soon re-appearing, until it emerges near a pond onto high meadow. Follow the line of the track which you have just left, for 3 mins. over a stile by a gate on your right onto a track. You are 430m. (1415 ft.) above sea level, the highest altitude of the walk!

Sharp right along the track ahead for 15 mins. of fine upland walking and magnificent views. Here a track joins from your left, but keep ahead, swinging right, for 7 minutes to pass a farm and bungalow on your right and a gate onto tarmac surface. In a couple of minutes reach a ‘green triangle’ junction and keep right. Downhill for 2 mins. keeping ahead through a gate into an ‘avenue’ track. This is the historic route believed to have been used by King Henry II in 1165 when his army were driven back into England after a humiliating defeat at the hands of the Welsh and the weather! Descend this ancient steep sunken way for about 12 minutes to join your outward route over the river bridge and up the short final rise to the B4500.
**Walk ‘C’**

**By Tramway; Llechwedd Gwyn; Pen y Gwely; Siambr Gerrig.**

7 km. (4½ miles); height gain 200m. (670ft.);
Allow 2½ hours walking.

Come by bus to Pontricket Farm, or park on the B4500 layby at Pontricket. Grid ref. SJ 186343.

From the layby, follow the main road south for 2 mins. and turn sharp left down to the twin-arched bridge over the Ceiriog. One min. ahead go left before a white cottage, keeping to this track* for 10 mins. to pass the large Hendre ‘granite’ Quarry. Just beyond take the right fork, and 5 mins. later, where the track swings right into a field, take the left fork downhill to a stile/gate and the former quarry-foreman’s house ‘Clochdy’r Bont’. Through the gate turn right up the tarmac (not the stone) lane. You are entering the Llechwedd Gwyn valley. Continue for 15 mins. to a cattle grid and just beyond fork right. In another 3 mins. fork left, uphill, passing a rustic seat and in 8 mins. reach an aptly worded seat and ponder its words! Take the right fork here and continue uphill for 18 mins. to reach a “T” junction close to a lane at Springhill.

It’s easy work now as you turn right along a clear track traversing the high pasture of Pen y Gwely, reaching your highest point at a gate in about 10 minutes. Follow the track ruts which swing right over open land for 10 mins. through another gate. Keep to the track for just 200m. but as the track bends left, take the stile by the left-hand of two field-gates and go 45° left across the field for about 100m. where you follow a track which begins just right of a pond. Keep to the track as it descends in 10 mins. to cross the stream of this lovely valley. Keep ahead and the track becomes steeper, swinging right and in 1 min. go left through the gate into a field and keep just left of the stream to cross a minor brook at a stream junction in the field corner. A track swings away left to 2 stone buildings, but we go right, through the gate, keeping the stream on our right but gradually parting from it to pass left of a copse of trees to a gateway and lane. Keep ahead downhill to re-pass over the bridge and up the short hill to the B4500.

*A short section of the track either side of Hendre Farm is permissive. If it should at any time be shut, follow the definitive path which runs in the water meadow immediately below the farmhouse.
By riverside: the uphill haul; panoramic terraces; down an historic lane.

7½ km. (4½ miles); 203m. (600ft.) height gain.
Allow 2½ hours walking.

Come by bus to Pontricket Farm, or park on the B4500 at Pontricket layby. Grid ref. SJ 186343

From the layby, follow the main road south for two mins. and take the lane sharply left down to the two-arch river bridge. 150m. ahead, take the field gate on right, and the middle of 3 ways ahead where a stile with gate lead into a field. Keep ahead on level ground just below the left hedge/fence for about 4 mins. to climb a stile, then continue between hedge and trees for 5 mins. to see the “Siamese sycamore trees” joined near the foot, and cross a small stream and stile. The route now follows a permissive path, and if at any time it should be unavailable, use the definitive path up to the farmhouse above you and then down the lane. Follow the right fence over a stile and continue on level ground near the right fence for 5 mins. to reach a tarmac gated lane. Turn right through that gate and along the lane for 7 mins. to reach a crossroads by Tregeiriog bridge. Go directly ahead with pumping station on your right and in 1 min. through a lane gate to begin the long climb! 5 mins. ahead the tarmac ends. Take the right fork and puff your way between hedges. Ignore all side turns, and in about 20 mins. cross directly over a tarmac lane. Up again but only for 10 mins. to a clear cross-roads of tracks. You have reached your highest point at 420m. (1,400 ft.). Your efforts are now rewarded by superb views of the landscape, backed by the high Berwyn ridge to the west. Turn left to follow the high terrace track north-east for 15 mins. to emerge on a tarmac lane. Go right for 8 minutes to a junction, turn left and immediately right onto a quiet country lane, again terracing above the valley, until reaching a “green triangle” junction. Now go left, downhill for 3 mins. to go through a gate where the tarmac ends. Keep ahead down this piece of history, for this is “Sarn Saeson”, almost certainly the track used by Henry II in 1165 when his army were driven back into England after a humilitating defeat at the hands of the Welsh and the weather! The lane’s concrete gutters were a later addition! In 10 mins. you are back at the river bridge and the last short climb to the B4500.
Walk ‘E’

The highs and lows of the Teirw Valley
9.5 Km. (6 miles); height gain 170m. (570ft.);
Allow 2½ hours walking.

Come by bus to Coed y Glyn Uchaf caves, start of National Trust Tramway track. There is parking here for about 4 cars. Please be sure not to block access to the caves or house. Grid Ref. SJ 198364.

A gate and stile lead onto the tramway track, which descends down close to river level. In about 6 mins. take the track forking right to pass in front of houses, to Pandy ‘phone box. Cross the main road to take the lane opposite which enters the valley of Afon Teirw (River of bulls). About 7 mins. ahead, see an isolated cottage (Rhosydd) and 50m. ahead, fork right up a rough stony forest track for 7 mins. to a ford. Ignore the sharp turning right, but cross the ford, through a gate and uphill on the trackway. 8 mins. ahead you may need to squeeze past a section liable to flood, and 3 mins. beyond, reach a fork of tracks. In early 2003 the definitive path led down the left-hand track and through the farmyard, but a more convenient route is planned, so take the right fork and immediately follow diversion signs through the gate on the left. Keep near the left-hand fence to cross a stile, turn right over the stream and stay close to the right hedge for 2 mins. Now swing left to contour beneath oak trees and keep ahead passing just above gorse to reach a stile and cross a gully with small stream. Keep ahead on a fairly level path through the trees and in 4 mins. reach a track winding uphill, which opens in 4 mins. onto meadowland. Cross a stile on left, keep right to a further stile in ½ min. then ahead near the right hand hedge, through young deciduous trees. Another stile gives way into a coniferous plantation. Keep below this same fence-line until the path emerges onto a tarmac road. Follow the tarmac road, keeping ahead downhill for 6 mins. to a road junction by the Saron Presbyterian Chapel. Go left down the lane and cross the river Teirw. Keep ahead uphill for 11½ mins. Where the tarmac lane swings sharp right and a gated track rises ahead, take the farm gate on the left and follow the field track. The official path goes ahead through a gate and across the yard of Ty’n y Pistyll farm, but the current owner does not object to the use of the more convenient track passing left of the yard and buildings to cross a small stream. In the field beyond this the track peters out but keep to the left side and in 3 mins. pick up a track descending left through woodland for 5 mins. Where the track ends, a path goes ahead over a stream and ladder stile over a wall. Keep parallel to the river, crossing two fields and through a gate into a wood. In 5 mins. emerge onto open fields, take the left track downhill to an attractive river bridge and a tarmac lane. Follow the lane down the lovely Teirw Valley for about 30 mins. back to Pandy. Cross the main road and retrace the outward route for 8 mins. to the start.
Walk ‘F’

High open moorland, a drovers’ road and two tumbling valleys.

11 km. (7 miles); height gain 270m. (885ft.);
allow 3½ hours walking.

Come by bus to Pontricket Farm, or park on the B4500 layby at Pontricket. Grid Ref. SJ 186343. NB if visibility on the hill is below 400m we suggest that you postpone this walk to another day!

From the layby, follow the main road south for 2 mins. Go right on the lane uphill and immediately fork left. Heave your way up the steep lane for 10 mins. Beyond the covered reservoir (and mini windmill), the gradient eases a little. Look back here to see the whole of “Walk B” in the Siambr Gerrig valley.

In another 10 minutes the tarmac gives way to a stone track ahead. From the two-step stile and gate keep ahead for 8 mins. to the track-end near a modern barn on the right. Here, take the first gate on left on a stone track between two fences for 2 mins., through the gate and right, following the fence for 5 mins. to a group of 6 trees, then a spring and pond on your right. Cross the seasonal stream (with stone embankment) and continue uphill on the track just left of the fence. Immediately beyond the next field-gate a waymark post directs you left (Mag. bearing 294°) for 2 mins. to a pile of stones. To your right is a stone monument. Keep on the same line for 3 mins. to another waymark post by a large boulder and 2 mins. ahead is a stile by a gate. Now aim Mag. 267° to pass between old stone gateposts in 2 mins. and now see and cross a further stile about a minute ahead. Now follow the fence on your right uphill for 2 mins. to climb a stile by a gate (big boulders). This track is “Sarn Sws” (the Kissing Way), an ancient drovers road.

Go ahead (NE) and keep to this panoramic stone road for about 25 mins.. On reaching the first house, turn right through a gate and along a field track. The official path goes ahead through a gate and across the yard of Ty’n y Pistyll farm, but the current owner does not object to the use of the more convenient track passing left of the yard and buildings, to ford a small stream. In the field beyond this, the track peters out, but keep to the left side and in 3 mins. pick up a track descending through woodland for 5 mins.. Where the track ends, a path goes ahead over a stream. Climb a ladder stile over a wall and keep parallel to the river, crossing two fields and through a gate into a wood. In 5 mins. emerge onto open fields and take the right fork, briefly uphill to Hafod y Garreg farm. The definitive path passes straight through the farmyard, but it is more pleasant to use the permissive path left of all the buildings, rejoining the legal way immediately beyond the farmyard. Join a descending green track and in 3 mins. the track gives way to a faint path ahead, soon crossing a gully, then immediately take the right fork on a faint path gently uphill for 6 mins. to cross a second gully just before passing through a small gate. Continue ahead, initially slightly uphill, then contouring, soon just below an old hedgeline for 5 mins. Beyond an old fencepost, bear diagonally right to meet the right-hand hedgerow and continue along it to the right of a pond, over a gate and right of a house and buildings. Pass through an old ornamental gate, where the official path goes ahead through two “wicket” gates and young woodland. But the owner suggests a better route passing left of the deep pond then following the fence to rejoin the official path at a stile by an electricity pole. Cross a small field to a gate, directly across a driveway, and 100m. ahead, keeping right of the old hedgerow, to cross a stile. Ignore the gate immediately right, but for 2 mins. keep just left of the level fence, taking care as ground falls away on your left. Through a gate, take the track downhill. Pass a track forking steeply uphill right, and 20m. beyond, climb the stile on left, turn back sharply left down a path towards a house. Pass left of it, then curve around the front to reach a tarmac road. Cross by the bus-stop, go right and take the minor lane descending left. Follow this over the Ceiriog river bridge at Pont y Meibion.

Immediately turn right, passing a house, Clochdy’r Bont, on the line of the old tramway. Just beyond a stile, fork left, then right and in 6 mins. reach the Hendre “Granite” quarry. Keep ahead on this track to pass Hendre Farm* then descend to reach a tarmac lane. Go right, re-cross the river on a beautiful two-arch bridge and uphill to re-join the B4500 at Pontricket. The car park is 2 mins. on right.

*A short section of path either side of Hendre Farm is permissive. If it should at any time be shut, follow the definitive path which runs in the water-meadow just below the farmhouse.