

# Young Planners Cymru Walking Tours Social Maps

## - Pontypridd -

Follow a trail within Pontypridd which highlights some interesting locations within the area as well as some important landmarks of planning merit.

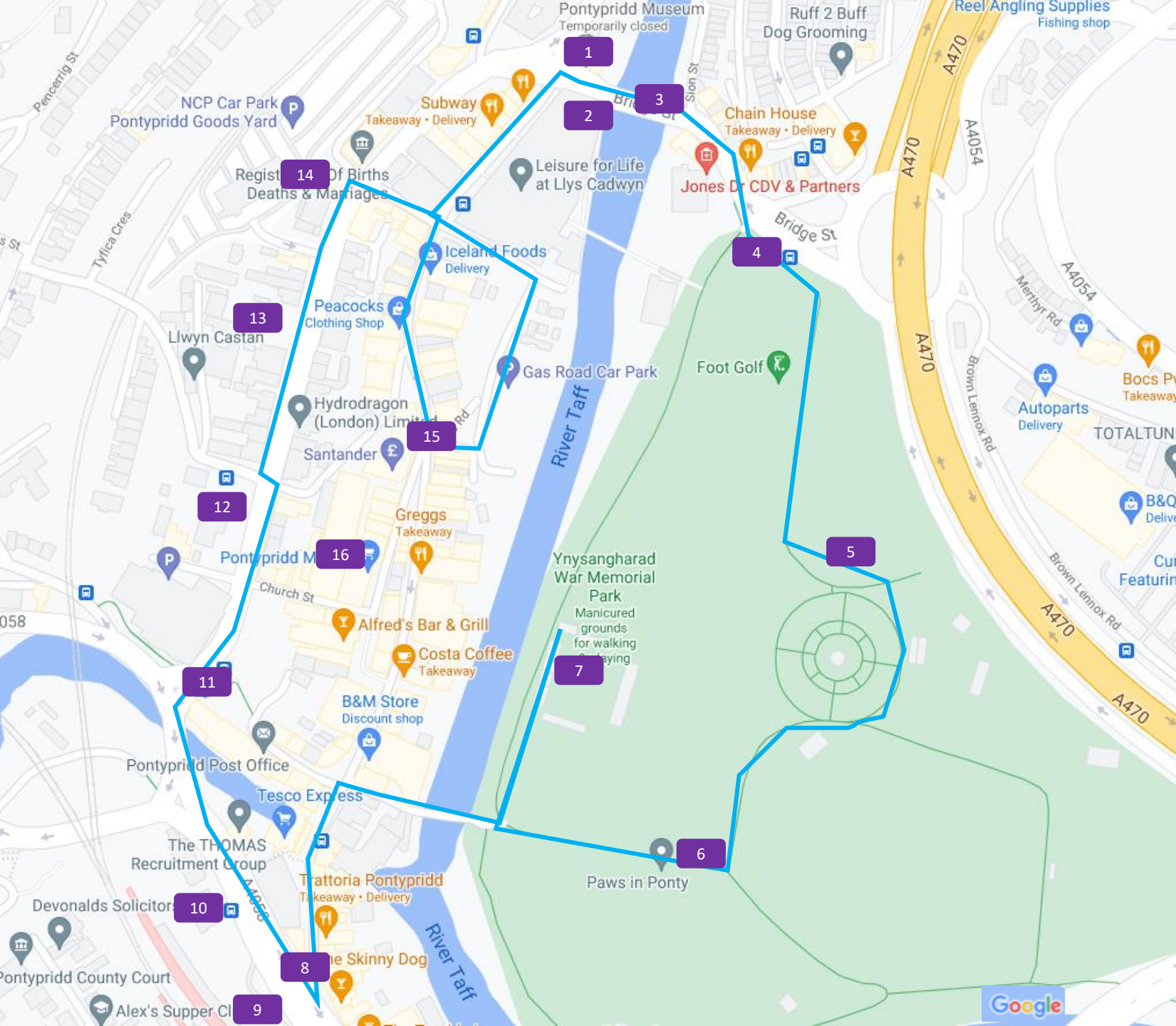
Young Planners Cymru have put this walking tour together to add a social activity to our armour during the pandemic (and after) and encourage us all to get outside and look at the richness some of our local places have to offer.

### **The Small Print**

On undertaking this walk please take care of your personal safety and observe any local COVID restrictions.

The image features a teal background with a pattern of white dots and abstract, light blue shapes. The dots are arranged in clusters, and the shapes are soft and organic. The overall aesthetic is clean and modern.

Pontypridd



1. Amgueddfa Pontypridd Museum
2. Llyfrgell Pontypridd Library
3. Yr Hen Bont / The Old Bridge
4. Parc Coffa Ynysangharad / War Memorial Park
5. Cofeb James Memorial
6. Dram Glo / Coal Dram
7. Lido Ponty
8. Freddie Welsh
9. Yr Orsaf Drenau / The Railway Station
10. Capel Sardis / Sardis Chapel
11. Plac James Plaque
12. Eglwys Santes Catrin / St Catherine's Church
13. Tŷ Gelliwastad House
14. Canolfan Gelf y Miwni / Muni Arts Centre
15. Taff Street a'r Ffynnon / Taff Street and the Fountain
16. Y Farchnad / The Market

# Fact Sheet

1. The museum building was the Tabernacl Chapel, built in 1861 to the design of its minister, Edward Roberts. Rebuilt in 1910, the interior has a fine ceiling and art nouveau stained glass. There is a permanent exhibition on the history of the town.
2. Library is part of the Llys Cadwyn redevelopment which is a mixed-use scheme comprising 10,700sqm of offices, 2,400sqm of community facilities and 400sqm of café restaurant space. It is a major element in the regeneration of Pontypridd's town centre at a site which had been derelict for many years. Llys Cadwyn was highly commended in the RTPI Cymru Awards for Planning Excellence 2020.
3. The old bridge was completed in 1756, after three failed attempts. The first was a conventional bridge of three arches, but this was destroyed within two years by the river in flood. The next two attempts to build a single span over the river also failed. The fourth bridge design featured three round holes through the masonry on each side of the bridge, greatly reducing the structure's weight. The bridge still stands today.
4. It was established as a War Memorial Park after the First World War, and funded by public donations.
5. The James Memorial commemorates Evan and James James, writers of the Welsh National Anthem 'Hen Wlad fy Nhadau'. The statues represent Music and Poetry.
6. In the sunken floral garden, a coal "dram" recognises the important financial contribution made by the miners to the creation of the park.
7. Lido Ponty was originally built in 1927 in a style that was typical of its time. It is the national lido of Wales. The refurbished Lido was highly commended in the Wales Planning Award 2016.
8. On the wall at the start of Sardis Road is a blue plaque commemorating Freddie Welsh, who was world lightweight boxing champion from 1914 to 1917 and the only Pontypridd-born man to hold a world boxing title.
9. The narrow valley makes it impossible to build several railway platforms side by side, a single island platform with several bays was built long enough to allow several trains to use it simultaneously. The platform was for many years the longest in Britain.
10. Sardis Independent Chapel was built in 1834, rebuilt in 1852 and modified in 1885. The present chapel, dated 1852, is built in the Simple Round-Headed style of the gable-entry type. Sardis is now Grade II Listed for the architectural interest of its mid nineteenth century exterior and the fine early twentieth century interior.
11. High on the end wall of the first building across the river is a black marble plaque. This marks the site of the small woollen factory owned by Evan James and his house next door to it. He and his son James lived here when they composed the Welsh National Anthem 'Hen Wlad fy Nhadau' in 1856.
12. Built externally of local sandstone with Bath stone dressings, St Catherine's Church interior by contrast is of red and black brick. It has fine stained glass, in particular a set of windows in the North aisle depicting the early history of Christianity in Wales.
13. Set back from the road on the left is the Gelliwastad Institute, formerly Gelliwastad House. This is the oldest building in the town centre.
14. The Muni Arts Centre is a typical turn of the century ecclesiastical building, constructed of coursed rock-faced sandstone with ashlar dressings, a steep Welsh slated roof, tower and spire over main entrance.
15. The design of the fountain features Celtic knotwork derived from the ancient crosses of the Vale of Glamorgan.
16. Pontypridd market is synonymous with the town and the Pontypridd Market Company has existed since 1877.