



Lydney Docks

SUMMARY Mostly flat, easy walking. Beware, unfenced drops at the pier and harbour edges.

START From the A48 around Lydney, follow the signs to Lydney Industrial Estate. Continue straight ahead on the private road and park in the car park at the end of the road.

WALK INFO

DISTANCE ¾ MILE

No. OF GATES 1

No. OF BRIDGES 2

- Walk back up the road and turn right opposite the bridge. Walk as far as the first pole [1]. Ahead is Naas House, one of the oldest houses in the area built in the 17th century for a William Jones. U.S. servicemen were stationed in the grounds during the Second World War.

- To your immediate left is the former Pine End works. This was built in 1940 to manufacture technical aircraft and marine plywood for wartime requirements. After the war William Mallison and Sons took over. This explains the large 'M's above the gates. The plywood produced here was made from huge African logs shipped here in barges from Avonmouth Docks.

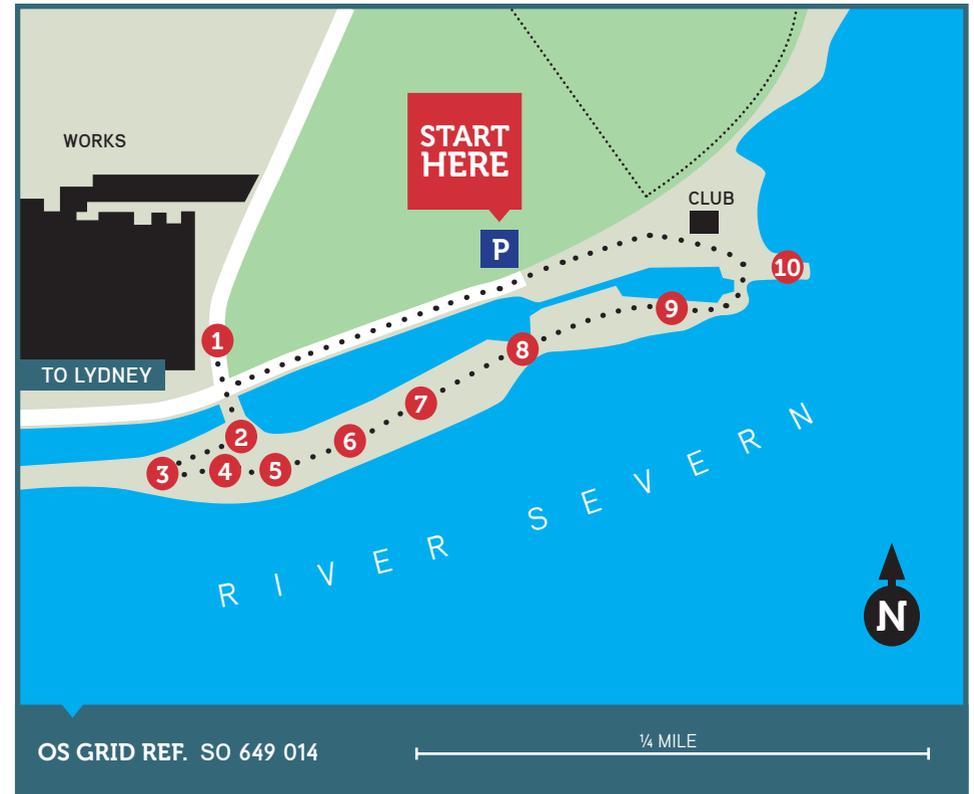
- Walk back to the bridge. This is a grade 2 listed swing bridge. It formerly rotated to allow vessels to pass.

- Cross the bridge and continue ahead. Turn right at the post with the red arrow [2] and walk to the boulder on the riverbank [3]. The boulder shows the direction to the site of the Lydney Roman Temple and Alvington church.

- Walk left along the riverside path to the six standing rocks [4]. As you walk around the rocks, you will see the compass directions appear as the letters on the rocks become aligned. When you can read a compass direction that is the direction in which you are looking.

- Continue to the next rock [5] between the interpretation boards. Look through the holes in the rock to see the Severn Bridges, salmon putchers and the Oldbury nuclear power station. Now look over the bank down to the foreshore. At low tide you may be able to see the remains of trows and barges in the mud. These were beached here and filled with rocks to protect the riverbank from erosion, but have now been eroded away themselves.

- Continue along the path. The remaining boulders [6-9] point out further features of interest and the interpretation boards will give



you an introduction to the past and present of the harbour area.

- The boulders and compass were created by local sculptor David Yeates. David also re-carved 72,000 individual letters on the Lydney war memorial sited near St. Mary's church just up the road. Another of David's works is the Forest of Dean Geomap at New Fancy Viewpoint back in the Forest. David's grandparents Frank and Alice Yeates restored nearby Clearwell Castle from a near ruin (see Walk 7).

- Continue to the end of the path and cross the lock gates. Turn right and walk out on to the pier [10]. To the left, where the river narrows is the site of the former Severn Rail Bridge. This bridge was damaged beyond economical repair in an accident in 1960 and removed a few years later. In the days of sailing ships, much skill

and knowledge was needed to safely get into the harbour due to the fast moving tides. The last vessel to regularly use the harbour was the Black Dwarf. The Dwarf's final voyage from here was made in 1942. Nowadays once or twice a year, a large pleasure cruiser ties up to this pier to load passengers for a cruise down the Bristol Channel as far as Ilfracombe.

- Walk back up the pier and return to the car park by keeping the harbour on your left.

For more information see "A Glimpse Back at Lydney Docks" by Neil Parkhouse (2001).