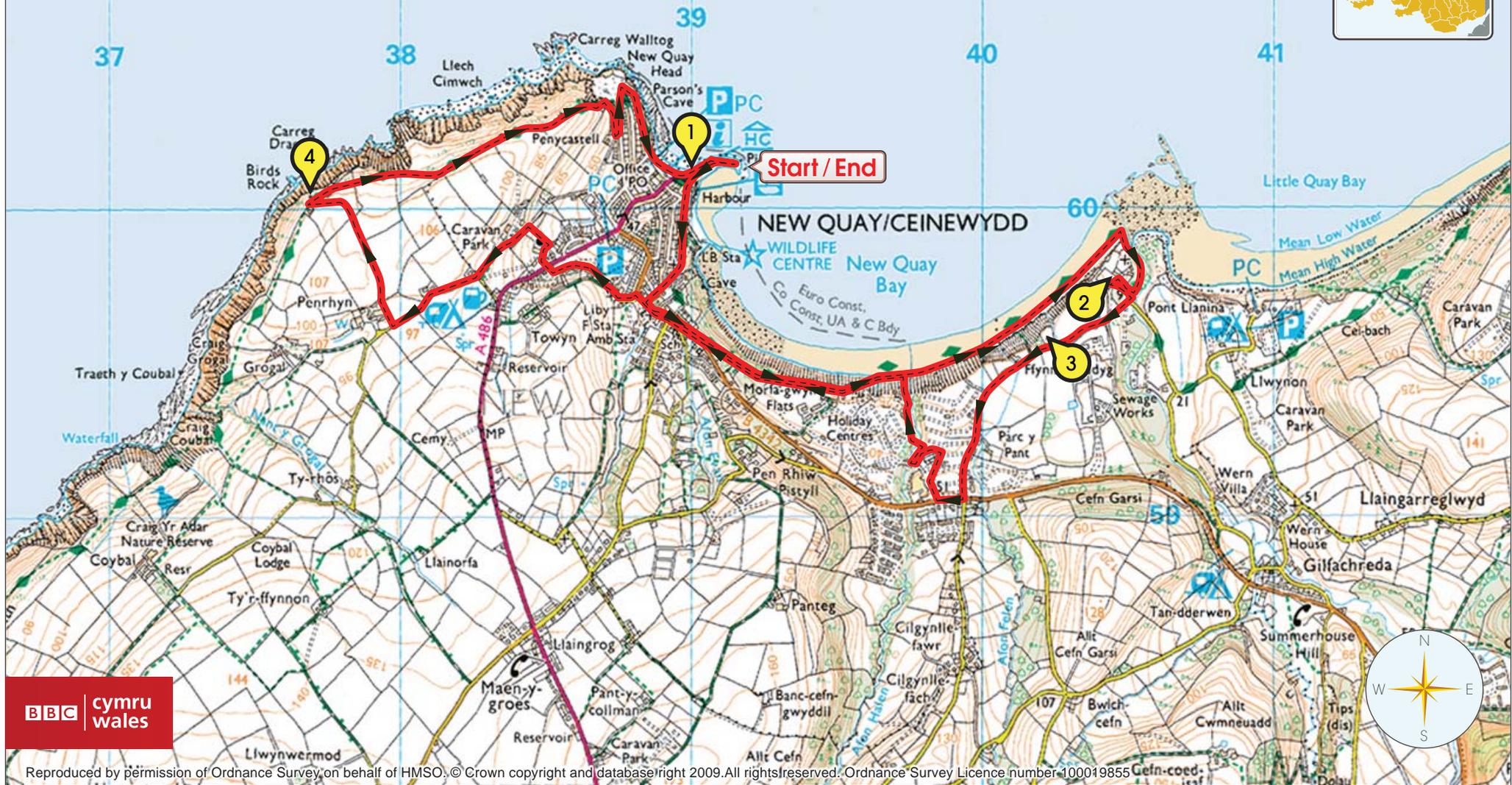


Weatherman Walking

New Quay Walk

Approximate distance: 5.7 miles

For this walk we've included OS grid references should you wish to use them.



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The Weatherman Walking maps are intended as a guide to help you walk the route. We recommend using an OS map of the area in conjunction with this guide. Routes and conditions may have changed since this guide was written. The BBC takes no responsibility for any accident or injury that may occur while following the route. Always wear appropriate clothing and footwear and check weather conditions before heading out.

Weatherman Walking

New Quay Walk

Start: Stone Pier

Starting ref: SN 391 601

Distance: About 5.72 Miles

Grade: Moderate

Walk time : Allow 2.5hrs

Dylan Thomas's time in New Quay was short but prolific and the breath-taking views along this trail, which follows in his footsteps, easily show why he was so inspired. Stop-offs along the route give glimpses into his life at this seaside resort including the local where he enjoyed a tippie, his writing haven and the spot of an infamous incident which generations later brought Hollywood to town. The walk's closing chapter is a stunning sea cliff stroll overlooking the blue waters of Cardigan Bay before dropping back into the picturesque port.



Harbour views get the walk off to a picturesque start

Directions

Walk along the stone pier with the harbour to your left and Traeth y Dolau beach just over the wall on your right. After passing Cardigan Bay Boat Place and New Quay Yacht Club, veer left and head up the hill but be aware of traffic on the road.

After a colourful bus stop and toilets on the left, briefly leave the busy road by taking a slight left into the mini park which has an information board about Under Milk Wood, benches and lovely views over the Blue Flag beach Traeth yr Harbwr (Harbour Beach).

After the park, continue uphill on Glanmor Terrace, again taking care with traffic, and pass the lifeboat station and Cardigan Bay Marine Wildlife Centre on your left. Shortly after a house that looks like a church, you will spot the Black Lion Inn ahead on your left.



Quirky bus stop on way uphill to the Black Lion



Views from the mini park just outside the harbour

Weatherman Walking

New Quay Walk



1 The Black Lion Inn (SN 389 598)

The original inn here dates back to the 1600s but its reputation as one of Dylan Thomas's favourite watering holes is the proud claim displayed on the sign outside today. Back when Dylan was a regular in the 1940s, it was run by his pal Jack Pat. Sixty years later, the pub itself hit the limelight when its exterior featured in the Hollywood film *The Edge of Love* which depicted Dylan's time in New Quay. Keira Knightley and the other stars are long gone but you can still see lots of memorabilia associated with the film and Dylan in the pub - including a poem he wrote mentioning the Black Lion, sent in by his daughter Aeronwy. Don't be tempted to sample too much local ale just yet though - you've still got a few miles to go!



Sign outside the Black Lion Inn

Continue up the hill keeping tight to the side of the road as there's no pavement. When you reach a T-junction at the top turn left past the Sea Horse Inn. Follow the road around on the path keeping to the left. Follow Stryd Bethel/Margaret Street until you bear left down George Street. Be aware of traffic here as the pavements, where they exist, are very narrow. At the end of the street you'll see a house with a pink door followed by three benches overlooking the sea and a blue Dylan Thomas marker on your left. This is a great spot for looking out to Llanina Point where you'll visit later.



The Sea Horse Inn also has Dylan connections

Look out for a road sign for Brongwyn Lane on your left and head down the lane keeping the sea to your left. Take care on the uneven path. Once you pass a wooden blue pagoda, carry along the path and you'll reach a photo point with picnic tables perfect for a quick drink as you enjoy the views. Instead of heading to the private house up to the right, head down the path and down some small wooden steps. At the bottom of the steps go left and head towards the beach. You'll see a little blue and white cottage on your right - continue down the narrow path, through some bushes with the sea to your left.



The sign for Brongwyn Lane

Weatherman Walking

New Quay Walk

Continue down towards the beach taking care as the path can be muddy and slippery. Then take the metal steps on your left to enjoy your first experience of the stunning Traethgwyn beach.

It's vital that you're aware of tide times before visiting this beach as even a couple of hours after high tide you can still get caught out - make sure you check before you leave. Turn right at the bottom of the metal steps and enjoy a long stroll along the sand. Looking out to sea, you might see as far as Snowdonia on a clear day. Apparently this beach was a favourite of Dylan's wife Caitlin who loved a dip in the sea.



Metal stairway down to Traethgwyn

After a time you'll see a sea defence wall on the beach with mounds of pebbles leading to a concrete path. Walk up to the path but be careful as there's a sheer drop on the other side. This is Llanina Point - marked by a large metal pole with a yellow circle on top. It is where the river meets the sea. Avoid the small path that leads to a little gate and instead follow the concrete path and steps until you are walking along the riverside. Take care here on the stony path.



Sea defence wall just before Llanina Point

Follow the path as it bears round to the right. You may see a broken wooden fence blocking a path that leads to Llanina Church but don't use this path. You may just glimpse Plas Llanina through the trees to the right. When you reach the large sturdy wooden gate you can turn left to continue the walk or, if you wish, turn right and walk up the public right of way to the pretty Llanina Church which is open to the public. This right of way passes in front of the entrance to Plas Llanina which is a private home which is not open to the public.



Gate just before road to Llanina Church

Weatherman Walking

New Quay Walk

2 Plas Llanina and the Apple House (SN 405 598)

Slow your pace as you walk up the public right of way heading towards Plas Llanina and look up high through the trees to your left as you may spot the ivy-clad remains of the roof of the Apple House – once Dylan’s writing sanctuary. The wooden door ahead is the entrance to Plas Llanina, private home to a couple who, when they purchased the property ten years ago, were surprised to discover they were also getting a slice of literary history at the bottom of their garden. The Apple House was a little studio offered to Dylan Thomas by the house’s then wealthy owner Lord Howard De Walden as a haven from his child-filled bungalow nearby. Plas Llanina is usually closed to the public but they are planning to hold open days to show the garden to celebrate the Dylan Thomas centenary in 2014 on June 18th, September 18th and October 10th between 10am and 3pm.



Private home - Plas Llanina



Derek and Jeff filming at Plas Llanina

If you took the detour to Plas Llanina, retrace your steps to the wooden gate. To the left of the gate you'll see a bridge with water running underneath, don't go over the bridge. Instead turn right here, don't follow the wooden sign to the coast path. Head up the hill passing a sign on the left to Coed Llanina Woods.



Pass Coed Llanina Woods on your left

Weatherman Walking

New Quay Walk

Stay on the right side of the road but, as there's no pavement, take extra care with the traffic. Where the road bends you may need to cross to the other side to get a better view of the traffic.

Pass a sign on your right which says Brownhill Private Property and shortly after the road widens you'll see Majoda on your right.



Be wary of traffic as you head up the hill

3 Majoda (SN 402 595)

Dylan, wife Caitlin and their two eldest children called this spot home when they fled war-torn London in 1944 during one of the coldest winters on record. Then just a rickety wooden shack, they rented it for just £1 a week. Everything changed one night in March 1945 when it was the scene of the infamous 'Majoda incident' in which neighbour and friend Captain William Killick, who had come home after fighting in Greece, returned from the pub and fired gunshots at the house while Dylan and Caitlin were inside. He was later acquitted of attempted murder. Today, it's still a private home but worth a glance as you wander past.



Carry on along the road, watching for traffic. On your right pass Ffynnonfeddyg – today a B&B but once home to Captain Killick and his wife Vera. Keep walking until you reach a T-junction with a large yellow house directly opposite. Turn right, carry straight on and shortly after turn right again into the clearly signposted Quay West Holiday Park.



Captain Killick's home now a B&B

Weatherman Walking

New Quay Walk

Inside the park, follow the road watching out for cars and go past the crazy golf course. Where the road splits, bear left following the green railings. Go left at the Powys sign. Cross at the pedestrian crossing, and keep on the right hand side of road before entering the Jubilee Trail on your right. Take the top path. This can be soft and mossy but there are wooden hand rails all the way down. At the small 'Jubilee Trail' and wooden animals sign don't turn left but go straight on. Do the same at the 'keep to the pathway' sign. Cross a very pretty wooden bridge then turn right. Nature fans should keep their eyes peeled for bird and bat boxes along the route.



Head into the Jubilee Trail

At the large round green 'woodland nature trail' sign, follow the path downhill towards the beach. If you're peckish there are picnic tables here. Take care as the path can muddy and slippery, particularly after bad weather. Soon you'll see a set of small metal steps to take down to the beach. As before, checking tide times before visiting Traethgwyn is vital as this section can be blocked at high tide. Here you can enjoy another quick trip to the beautiful Traethgwyn before heading back up the large metal steps you came down earlier. At the top of the metal steps where the road forks, take the turning on right. Take care as this path can be muddy and slippery after rainfall.



Picnic tables before you head back to the beach

Follow the path, pass a blue and white cottage on the left and the lane bears left. When you see a little wooden stairway to your right, take it. Soon you reach the photo point you passed earlier and can take a minute to enjoy the breath-taking views of the harbour from afar. Pass several cottages and continue until you see the Maes y Pwll Community Woodland signposted on your left and head into the woodland. Follow the path, which can be muddy, straight on and as it bears to the right. When the pathway forks, head straight up towards the little wooden steps and at the top of the steps head towards the wooden gate.



Entrance to the Maes y Pwll Woodland

Weatherman Walking

New Quay Walk

Go through wooden gate and follow the path ahead, up the hill to the right passing a wooden bench on your left. Continue along the grassy path and join the top of Brongwyn Lane, then turn right onto the main road. Walk along the narrow pavement back towards New Quay, taking care because of traffic, and continue back along Stryd Bethel/ Margaret Street passing New Quay FC. Cross the road at Upland Square, turn left and follow the brown tourist sign to the Memorial Hall, up Towyn Road and passing between Towyn Chapel and the Memorial Hall.



Towyn Chapel opposite the Memorial Hall

Continue onwards at the top on a single track road, passing 'Wendawel', another stop along the Dylan Thomas trail which has a blue marker, up on your left. Pass 'Creigle' bungalows on the left and carefully cross the main road ahead to take the lane ahead called Rectory Square.



Cross the main road into Rectory Square

Follow the lane around to the right and enter St Llŵchaiarn Church through the gate. Walk along the path, keeping the church to your left. Go through a small wooden gate at the rear of the church and head up a grassy track which is uneven and can become very muddy. At the metal gate at the top, turn left. This route is through farmland so can be very muddy and uneven so you'll definitely need to wear walking boots or wellies!



Small gate at rear of church

Weatherman Walking

New Quay Walk

Near the top of the path are two metal gates – go through the higher gate next to the farmhouse. Bear right around the farmhouse and a large tank and go through a second metal gate and turn left. Follow the path until you reach a large dark wooden gate, go through it and bear right up the lane passing 'Maes yr Awel' bungalow on your right.

Keep your eyes peeled for the next farm (called Penrhyn) on your right. Turn right through a wooden gate marked 'permissive path' and keep left in the field before you exit via another wooden kissing gate. The permissive path is clearly signposted.

Turn right up the yard, through a metal farm gate and go straight across to a single track road. Proceed right to the end, through another metal gate passing a Government Property sign on the left. Keep the wire fence to your left, and the sea on your right, and take the route to the right and through a kissing gate down to a white shelter.



Lovely views looking back over New Quay



Turn right after the large wooden gate



Penrhyn Farm

Weatherman Walking

New Quay Walk

4

Birds Rock (SN377 600)

The clue is in the name at Birds Rock, or 'Craig Yr Adar' - in Spring and Summer this is the county's most significant breeding ground for seabirds. Here you'll find a former coastguard hut now restored as an ideal little lookout for bird watchers hoping for a glimpse of anything from a guillemot or a razorbill to a kittiwake or a cormorant. Feathered friends aside, lucky nature lovers may get the added bonus of spotting a seal or dolphin in the waters below. And even if the wildlife is feeling shy, it will be a welcome dry hideaway to tuck into your sandwiches if the heavens open!



The Birds Rock lookout with panoramic views

After visiting Birds Rock, take the steps up to the Wales Coast Path and turn left to begin the stunning walk along the coast back to New Quay. Shortly you'll see a wooden sign warning of an alternative route ahead. For safety, take the right hand route which is away from the very edge but still on top of the cliff. Follow the route round then turn right at the end, to keep the sea on your left.



Take the fork to the right for the safer path

Take care again on the cliff top, head up the grassy path and continue to keep the sea on your left. On the path ahead you'll eventually have the sea on both sides! Pass a stone shelter on the right then proceed carefully down a steep area of path. Walk down stone steps and you'll see the top of a white fish factory below on the left.

Weatherman Walking

New Quay Walk

Take the path that meanders down, exiting on the lane down left overlooking New Quay.

At this point you could head back straight back to New Quay. But if you want to continue, take a left at the wooden sign post down some steep steps. Follow the path around and down to the bottom lane. There is a wooden seat available here if you're in need of a breather!

Turn left immediately on reaching the bottom, into the turning circle. Follow the coastal path signs down in front of a large white building which is the fish factory. Beware here of loose stones and slate. Turn right at the bottom through a wooden kissing gate onto the bottom lane, passing small pretty cottages on the right on your way back to centre of New Quay. You'll be above Traeth y Dolau beach on the path back into town.

Pass the Tourist Information Centre and turn left back to the pier where the walk began and treat yourself to some fish and chips!



Coastal path with sea on both sides



Kissing gate just to the right after the fish factory



Views coming back into New Quay