## Nick Kaye Special-5: Bristol to Cardiff via Pontypool Hills

## Date: 30th January 1987

## Distance/Ascent: 53.8 miles, 7000 feet

## Leader: Tony Rowley, Andrew Clabon and Nick Kaye

## Route Description:

* Met at 20:30 at Muller Road, Horfield, Bristol (ST 598 767), started at 21:55.
* Walked by roads north-westwards through Henleaze and Eastfield crossing B4056 at (ST 582 772) and joining A4018 at (ST 573 778).
* A4018 south-west for short way then north-westwards on road along east side of Blaise Castle Estate. Joined B4055 at (ST 563 789) which was followed northwards to track junction at (ST 567 799).
* Track north-west crossing M5 at (ST 563 805) to Berwick Lodge. Path north-north-east along Spaniorum Hill descending to Church Farm near Easter Compton at (ST 570 821).
* Lane north-west past Edsleigh Farm to track junction at (ST 547 841).
* Track northwards across A403 to join road through north part of Severn Beach at (ST 544 848). Road north to B4064 at (ST 543 853). B4064 north-east to north end of Redwick at (ST 550 859). Path round rifle range to join embankment at (ST 551 868).
* Path along embankment to B4055 at (ST 562 881), B4055 to Old Passage then onwards north-east to lane junction just before A403 at (ST 570 891).
* Lane north and across top of toll to Aust Services (first stop). Return across toll to south side of M4 then along cycle track/path across Severn Bridge to Chepstow interchange.
* Around roundabout to south side taking road down into industrial estate, leaving it for field paths at (ST 527912).
* Devious route through fields to Mathern joining road at (ST 526 908).
* Road north-west through Mathern to road junction at (ST 518 917).
* Minor road north to path junction at (ST 518 921). Path north-west across the A48 and up valley northwards to join road at Mounton at (ST 512 929).
* Road through Mounton heading westwards, passing through Shirenewton to track junction at (ST 468 932) just south of The Oaks.
* Track then fields passing south of Stoneycroft wood to descend to Castrogi Brook at (ST 460 934). Lane and field paths north-west up Castrogi Brook to ford and footbridge north of Rocks Cottage at (ST 448 947).
* Track south-west uphill over Bica Common and into Wentwood.
* Track west to road junction at (ST 428 941) and second stop of the walk.
* Road north-west to (ST 424 943) and junction with tracks.
* Forestry west-south-west to minor road at (ST 413939). Across road following track west to junction at (ST 409 939), north on track then path to join forestry track at (ST 409 544).
* West down forestry track to track junction at (ST 398 943).
* Track south-west for short way to path junction at (ST 396 940).
* Path north out of forestry to Bertholey House, down drive passing under A449 at (ST 391 949) by White Hall. Field path west to Newbridge and Newbridge on Usk.
* Field path from pub to road at (ST 381 947), roads westwards via Tredunnock, Croes LLywarch, Llwyncelyn and Lan Sor to path junction at (ST 343 950).
* Field paths north-west up Sor Brook past Llandegveth and Walnut Tree farm to Sor Brook picnic site by Brook House at (ST 324 977) – breakfast stop.
* North-westwards via field paths past Ty-mawr Llanddewy and New House to Panteg.
* Road then field path to cross A4042 at (ST 305 989). Through Lower New Inn crossing Afon Lwyd at (ST 301 989). West through industrial estate passing under dual carriageway and over railway to cross main road at (ST 294 989).
* Road west to turn left (south) on second main road at (ST 291 987).
* Side street then lane uphill to hill road at (ST 281 987).
* Path south-westwards past white house to summit of Mynydd Twyn-glas. South over Mynydd Maen then south west along ridge of Mynydd Henllys to Twmbarlwm.
* Down north-west to Pegwn-y-bwlch then south past Hanson’s Lodge downhill to canal at (ST 234 916). Track and path west below canal to cross A467 at (ST 227 915).
* Across B4490 at (ST 226 914), bridge over Afon Ebwy then track past Glenside and uphill through forestry to track junction at (ST 223 906).
* South along track for short way then up steep hillside to summit of Mynydd Machen.
* Down north ridge of Mynydd Machen to (ST 219 904) near spoil heaps then south west through Blaen-y-cwm farm to lane junction at (ST 210 898). South down lane to Machen.
* Across A408 and Afon Rhymni at (ST 210 890), track to minor road at (ST 211 888).
* Up forestry track through Coed Cefn-pwll-du forest heading first south then south-west past Dan-y-Graig to Rudry and Maen Llwyd pub.
* Rhymney Valley Ridgeway path along Cefn Onn to Cefn-onn Farm. Continue west along Cefn Onn to bridle path junction at (ST 169 849). South down Heol Hir to Ashdale Court and finish.

## Weather: Perfect winter conditions for a long walk – the night was windless but also moonless with a temperature of -6oC – The day was cloudless, beautifully sunny with no wind but hazy views – although it was below freezing one could still sunbathe in shirt sleeves on top of the hills – a very good route in superb weather for this time of year. Enjoyed by everybody.

## Participants: Tony Rowley, Andrew Clabon, Nick Kaye, Chris & Shirley Hume, Ken & Isabel Falconer, Chris Coy, Peter Lewis, Brian Williams, Mike Evans, Tony Clark, Mac McArthur, Mac Wilkins, Bob Ford.