

JBs Cardiff 16th September 2021

As others have found, Wetherspools are just about the only pubs which seem to have overcome the problems with staffing and distribution such that they can still open before midday with a good range of beers. Accordingly, we start by crossing the square outside the main station exit and walking up Westgate Street to the Wetherspools opposite the Principality (formerly Millenium) Stadium where breakfast will be available for those who require it.

At the time of writing, in Wales face coverings are still mandatory in enclosed public spaces such as shops and public transport, but **not** in pubs or eating establishments.

The Pubs

1. **The Gatekeeper.** Traditional JB's Wetherspools start/meeting point. Food available. Leave at 11:00, turning left then left again into Quay St and crossing High St into Church St to:
2. **The Owain Glyndwr.** Large city centre pub which, by the time of our visit, should have a reasonable range of mainly local beers so a convenient stopping off place. Food available. Leave at 11:35, turn left into St John St, right into Queen St, walking down past the Carousel in the middle of the (pedestrianised) road before turning left into Windsor Place for:
3. **The Central Bar:** Another Wetherspools and a useful place to wait for No 4 to open. Food available. Leave at 12:15, turn right and cross the very busy dual carriageway at the pedestrian lights (NB they don't give you much time to get across so you might have to do it one carriageway at a time!). Follow the road around St David's Church, cross St Andrew's Place into Park Grove and:
4. **The Pen & Wig.** A pleasant beer garden, a range of Welsh beers and the best pub chips I've tasted in a very long time makes this the preferred food stop (lunch menu around £6, standard menu rather more). Leave at 13:45 by the back gate and turn right into Park Lane then left at the end and cross Park Place. Continue in front of the Museum of Wales (culture opportunity?) and City Hall before using the pedestrian subway to reach Kingsway. Follow the footpath to the main road round in front of Cardiff Castle (4075 for those of a copper-capped persuasion) then left into High Street for:
5. **The Blue Bell:** Previously a Brains pub called the Goat Major which we last visited in 2004. There was quite a fuss when the new owners changed the name, with claims that they were flying in the face of tradition, but it died down rapidly when it was pointed out that Blue Bell was its name in 1813 and it was in fact Brains who had ignored history! Food available.

To return to the station, turn right into High St, continue into St Mary St then right into Wood St to reach Central Square. If the timetable is anything like normal, trains every ½ hour to Paddington and Bristol, every hour to Crewe/Manchester via Shrewsbury and Derby/Nottingham via Birmingham NS.

Cardiff Map

