



A WOODLAND WANDER

Turn left and follow the drive up to a T-junction in the farmyard area. Here turn left and pass through a gate straight ahead.



Wood Sorrel
and the
poisonous Dog's
Mercury

Continue with the hedge on the left to go over a stile. Head straight across the slope to a stile next to a fenced-off wood. After it, stay in the same direction to enter and exit a small wooded area. Cross the slope to a piece of scrubby woodland, bear left through it and leave at the stile.

Turn right and follow the fence to a seat and a large oak tree.

From here climb slightly diagonally right to a fence corner near the woods. Up to the right, a stile in the fence gives entry to Upperhouse Wood.

**** Here the two walks come together again.**

Go forward and along the contour and after 80 metres, swing right. Climb the steep woodside to a stile set in a fence line. Leave the wood and enter the open ground.

Walk straight down and through a gate in the bottom right corner of the field. Just below the gate, turn left and then go down slightly right to a stile near a metal field gate.

Cross the stile and proceed with the hedge on the left to another one. After this descend, with the boundary on the right, to get out at the gate in the corner of the field next to Drybridge House.

Join the road that leads back to Skenfrith.

The tombstone of John and Ann Morgan can be seen in Skenfrith Church which dates back to the early 13th century. John Morgan who died in 1557 was the last governor of the "Three Castles". The effigies depicted on the south side of the tomb are of his four sons whilst those of his four daughters can be seen on the north side; all show the elaborate Elizabethan dress of the period in great detail.



From The Bell at Skenfrith

Distances:
Short Walk: 2¾ miles (4.5km) Allow 1½ hours
Long Walk: 4½ miles (7km) Allow 2½ hours

With two climbs on both walks of 165ft (50m) and 330ft (100m)



Stile by Oak



The Tombstone of John and Ann Morgan

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Please be aware:

This is not 'Right to Roam' Countryside.
Please keep dogs on leads where there is livestock.



"Mistletoe" tree
Trevonny

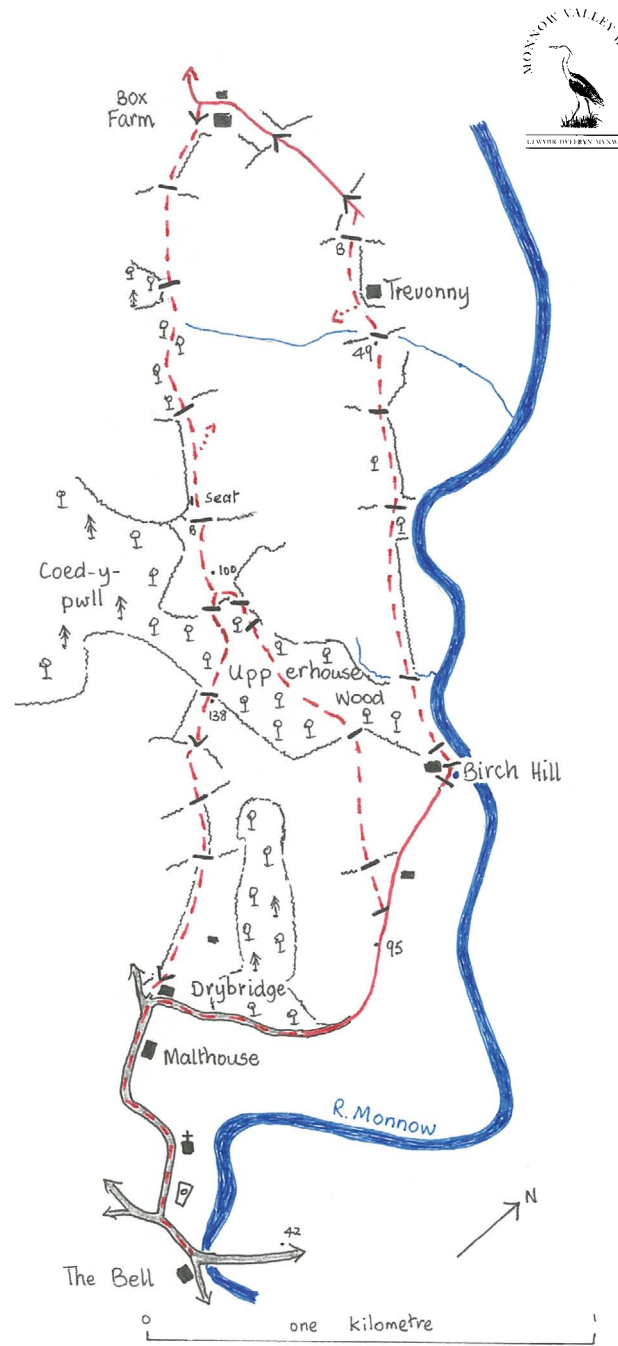
Mistletoe is quite common in this part of Britain and is very evident on this walk, especially on the branches of old fruit trees. There are good examples at Skenfrith Castle, Trevonny and Box Farm.

Take the road through the village past the castle and church and keep on to reach a T-junction in front of Drybridge House. Take the lane on the right and just before the top, cross a cattle grid.

Some 200 metres down the slope the walks diverge.

The description of the longer walk continues at the paragraph marked *

For the shorter walk leave the track at the stile on the left (with the heron logo). Aim for the top telegraph pole. Use the stile in the fence and continue in the same direction to Upperhouse Wood where a stile next to a gate affords entry. Go down the grass track and keep straight on to get through the rest of the wood.



Stile -
Gate > If you open one please close it.

A stile at the end and another on the left gives access to a small rough area and the open country. Immediately up to the left at a stile in the fence, re-enter Upperhouse Wood.

Here the two walks come together again. The joint description starts at paragraph marked **.

* The longer route uses part of the Three Castles Walk as far as Box Farm. Continue down towards Birch Hill and just before its



Sandmartins

entrance, cross a stile. Walk between the buildings and a pond. Go over a stile and follow a grassy slope down to another stile. From here go left, and immediately right, to use two boardwalks separated by a stile.

The sand martin, with its white underside and brown breast band, comes to the Monnow's banks near Trevonny towards the end of April.

Turn right into the river meadow, make for the field boundary and with this on the right, follow it until it gives out. Keep straight on towards Trevonny over three stiles.

After the third one, walk ahead to a path which skirts around left of the farm. Go over a stile and bridge and keep straight on to reach the driveway.



Dog Violet