



# THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR TRAIL



Remains of the nave

In Britain there are five circular naves attributed to the Knights Templar but Garway Church has the only visible and accessible remains. Could The Holy Grail be here?!

To return to Skenfrith, two parts of the walk will retrace steps taken on the

outward journey. Exit the churchyard to pass the disused tennis court and go over the stile and bridge.

Climb the slope just left of the hedge line and pass to the left of an old tree stump to get back to the stile above. After this leave the outward route.

Turn right, follow the hedge on the right and pass through a gate ahead. Keep on next to the fence to reach and go down a track. From the gate in the bottom corner continue along the track. This leads to a gate next to a water trough and access to Garway Court.

Take the first turning on the left and join the road. Proceed to a stile on the right next to a large ash tree. From here retrace the outward route which is all the way down with the boundary on the right.

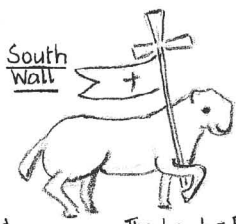
Go left down the lane and right at the B4521 road to return to Skenfrith.

North Wall



The Hand of God

South Wall

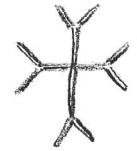


The Lamb & Flag

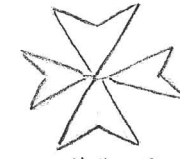
East Wall



Patriarchal Cross



Cross Fouchee

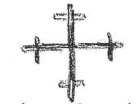


Maltese Cross

South Wall



Swastika



Cross Crosslet



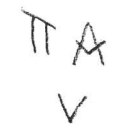
Cross Potent



Masons' marks

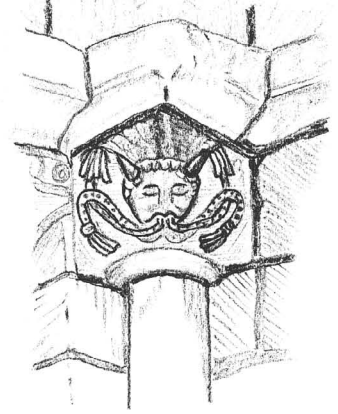


Griffin



Masons' marks

Inside - carved capital.



Walk around the outside of Garway Church. How many of these incised markings can you find?



## From The Bell at Skenfrith

Distance: 4¾ miles (7.5kms) Allow 2½ hours  
With a climb of just over 330ft (100m)

**Please be aware:**

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

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Cross the bridge outside The Bell and go along the B4521 road with great care for about 250 metres and leave it to enter the lane on the left. The next section of this walk is for the most part between the river and Ellis's Wood.

Ann Pritchard of Skenfrith (1799-1899) remembered how she and her companions on their way to school at Garway would curse and spit when they passed the house of a reputed witch in Ellis's Wood. She was blamed for everything. When the landlord of The Bell put a sack over her head and beat her, ducks and fish died in the river.

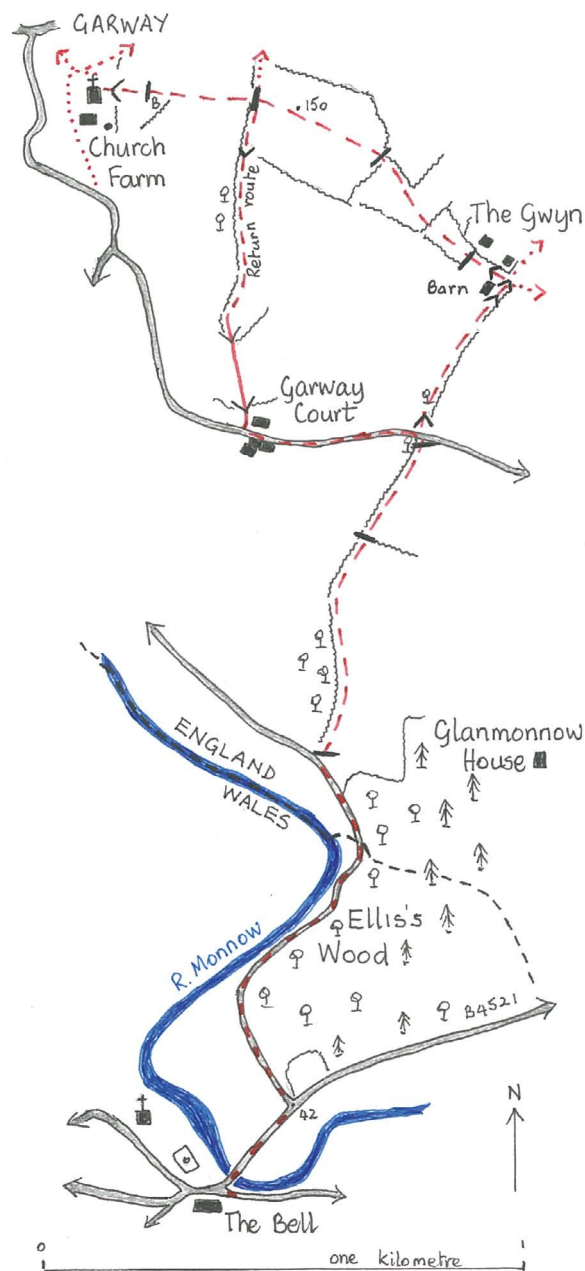


Heron over the Monnow and fisherman's stand.

Proceed along the lane for approximately 800 metres to a stile on the right and a public footpath sign. Enter the fields which are occasionally stocked with bullocks.

Go up the edges of the fields with the boundaries and ditch on the left to come out on a road. Cross this and pass through a gate. Continue upwards, now with the boundary on the right. At the top use the two gates to the right of a barn. Turn left to pass through another gate.

The Black Mountains are in the distance with the distinctive mound of Pen y Gadair Fawr (summit of the great chair) in evidence.



Stile -

Gate > If you open one please close it.

Follow the hedge on the right to go over a stile. Keep in the same direction to pass an electricity pole and a field corner and reach another stile. From here carry straight on midway between the bottom two of three electricity poles. The stile required is in the middle of the field boundary a little way up from a gate.

Make towards the church. Part way down the short steep bank pass close to the end of a hedge line on the left. Use the bridge and stile ahead and go by the side of a disused tennis court. At the end of this bear right. A short distance further on enter the churchyard.

Just before the east wall of the church a look left will give a clear view of the top of the dovecote which has 666 L-shaped nesting spaces. It is a fine example of a Norman columbarium.



The Dovecote

The site occupied by St Michael's Church, Garway was given to the Knights Templar in the 12th century. The present church has intriguing stone markings and carvings inside and outside; 13th century windows in the north wall; a 14th century font; an original medieval altar stone; a wonderful Norman chancel arch. There is also a massive 21 metre (70 feet) high tower which was used for defence and refuge.