



THE MONNOW RIVER WALK

In the 17th century this area was the scene of much clandestine activity. At the time of the Roman Catholic persecutions many local inhabitants were sympathetic to the Catholic cause. The Cwm, nearby, was the headquarters of a Jesuit mission until it was ransacked by the Bishop of Hereford in 1678, its library burnt and priests imprisoned or executed.

Imagine what this area might look like now if one or more of the communication schemes mooted in the past had come to fruition. In the mid-18th century a plan was put forward to make the river navigable from Grosmont to Monmouth. At the beginning of the 19th century a new main road from Monmouth to Hay-on-Wye was proposed and in the latter half of the century there were plans for a Monnow Valley Railway from Monmouth to Pontrilas and beyond.

Cross over the river Monnow from England into Wales. From the stile on the right take the path towards Blackmoor Farm.

With the buildings on the left, follow the grass track through two gates into a poplar plantation. Just before the next gate, join another walk denoted by a chained swan. Go through the next poplar plantation diagonally right to the field corner near the river. Here, cross a stile and bear left to cut across a loop of the river.



Kingfisher

Continue along the bank to a gate which gives entry to Clappers Wood; walk through and out into a field.

Continue in the same direction through two gates and cross the driveway of Ruthlin Mill. After another gate keep above some sheds and then go down the steps. Turn left and leave the property at a gate.



Wild daffodil

Walk straight across the field to its boundary, turn left and go up to the road.

Proceed right along the road a short distance to take a stile on the left. Climb diagonally right to the corner stile

and go up through the woodland, via two series of steps, to emerge onto a track.

Turn right and go over a stile onto the hillside. Continue straight across the slope, past a large oak tree and an electricity pole on the right, to a stile; after this go up to reach another in the fence line. This gives access to Coedanghred Hill. Walk up diagonally left to the top. The next stile is set in a fence at the start of the downward slope.

Go straight down just left of some oak trees and over three stiles to reach the road and The Bell.



from The Bell at Skenfrith

Distance: 6¼ miles (10kms) Allow 3½ hours
With a climb of 440ft (135m)

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

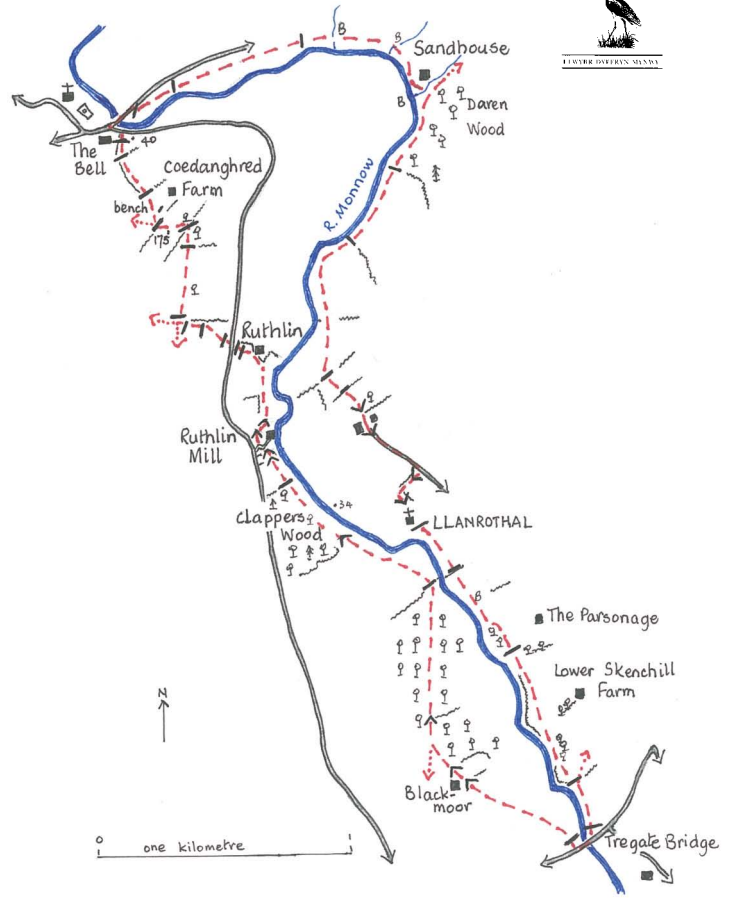
From The Bell cross the bridge and then the stile on the right. Make for the river bank, keep along it and go over a number of stiles and bridges to pass Sand House. Leave its grounds at a bridge over a brook and turn right. The path passes through Daren Wood.

Leave the wood via a stile to walk straight on and up a slight rise. Further along, near the river, use the stile to enter fields which are usually cultivated. Keep to the river bank and after 100 metres turn left. Go straight across the field, through a gap in the hedge some 30 metres up from the river.

Proceed in the same direction to go over a stile and another just beyond it. Head up the next field - aim just to the left of the main building - to go over a stile and through a gate at the top. Pass by the converted barns to reach a gate which gives access to the road.

Carry on for approximately 250 metres to go over a small road bridge and just beyond it turn right. From the gate head for the church.

This leaflet is based on Section 3 of the Monow Valley Walk book



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

The cherry tree nearby has been grafted so that white and pink blossoms are produced in the spring.

Skirt left around the church to the backdoor. Turn left, use the stile ahead and make for the river bank. Keep along it to the next stile. Make for the bank again via a hand-railed bridge. Where the river bends away to the right go left. Climb the short steep bank which has a clump of trees on the right. Keep these trees on the right to go forward and over a stile.

Bear right down to the river side and carry on along it, with a bank of trees on the left. Where these end, veer left (aim for the large house, Tregate Castle) to a stile in the corner above a slight rise. Walk along the river bank to come out onto the road at Tregate Bridge.

Tregate Castle stands on an old motte and bailey site. Unsuccessful secret armistice talks took place here in 1645 between leaders of the Roundheads and Cavaliers.



Llanrothal Church

The church of St John the Baptist is a redundant one. The north wall of the nave and its window are 12th century. The rest of the building is mostly late 13th century. The site was probably associated with the Celtic saint, Rídol.



Tregate Bridge