

DISCOVER CORWEN AND THE DEE VALLEY

EXPLORE THE BEAUTY, HISTORY AND WILDLIFE
OF CORWEN AND THE RAILWAY STATIONS IN THE DEE VALLEY



**Bryniau Ciwyd a
Dyffryn Dyfrdwy**
Ardal o Harddwch
Naturiol Eithriadol

**Ciwydian Range
and Dee Valley**
Area of Outstanding
Natural Beauty

EXPLORE CORWEN'S COUNTRYSIDE

Corwen shelters beneath the crags of the Berwyn Mountains, where the wide valley of the River Dee meets the Vale of Edeyrnion before winding its way eastwards towards Llangollen. From oak woodlands to old railways and historic remains, Corwen has something for everyone.

Delving into the history of Corwen finds tales of Owain Glyndŵr, a medieval church of All Saints at Llangar, an Iron Age hillfort and a Christian community first documented in 1222.

The town of Corwen has its origins in Roman times, which were then built on by the founding of an early Christian community here. The town was an important stop for drovers, and later for travellers on the coach road to Holyhead (now the A5). It served the local farming community as a thriving market town and was made even busier by the arrival of the railway in 1865. Today it remains a thriving local community nestled in spectacular scenery with fantastic opportunities for enjoying the local countryside.



This leaflet has been designed to help you see some of the fascinating history and wildlife of Corwen and the Dee Valley.

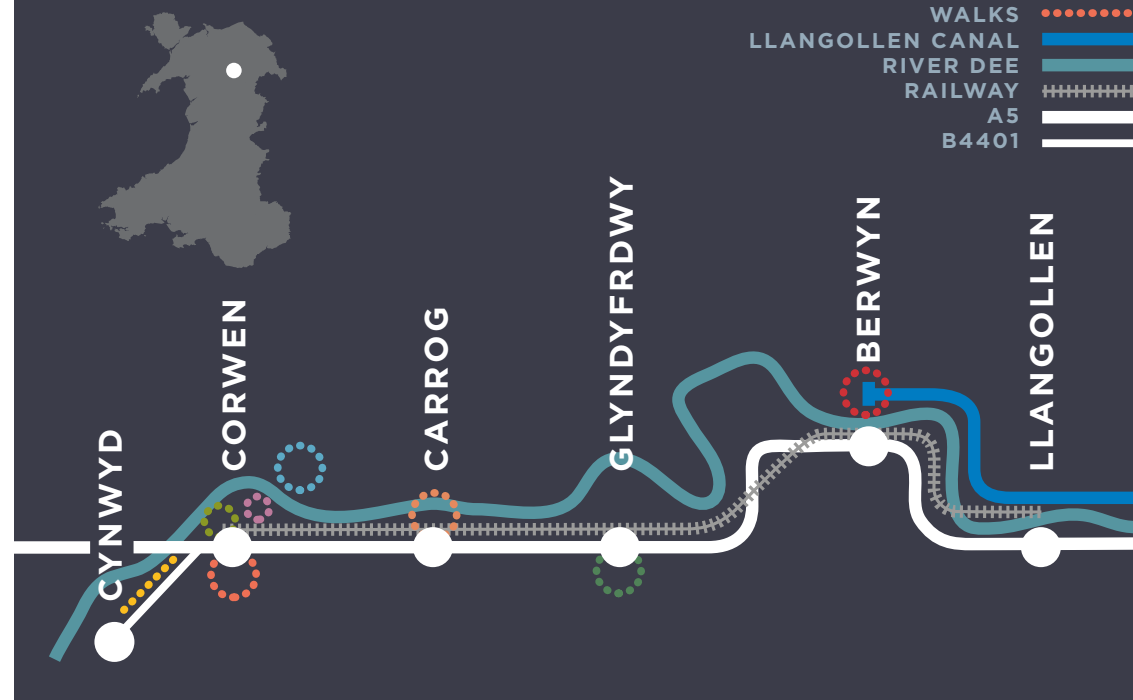
Although every effort has been made to make this booklet as accurate as possible, neither the authors nor publishers accept any responsibility for resulting consequences.

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www.denbighshirecountryside.org.uk

hiker For more walks in this area please visit
www.clwydianrangeanddeevalleyaonb.org.uk/walking

bicycle For cycling routes visit
ridenorthwales.co.uk

bed For information on where to stay and things to do visit
www.northeastwales.co.uk | www.corwen.org
www.discoverdenbighshire.co.uk



COUNTRYSIDE CODE

- Be safe – plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals - take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people

PEN Y PIGYN	2
DÔL AFON	4
GRO ISA	4
CAER DREWYN	6
CORWEN / CYNWYD	8
GLYNDYFRDWY	10
CARROG	12
BERWYN	14

KEY

- | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Church with tower | Gate | Walk route | Parking |
| Church | Stile | Public footpath | Toilets |
| Viewpoint | Kissing gate | Permissive path | Play area |
| Monument | Picnic area | Quarry | Camping |
| | | Railway | Train station |

PEN Y PIGYN

Pen y Pigyn is the steep-sided hill that Corwen nestles beneath. There are footpaths leading to it behind the Workhouse building and behind the church.



The Church, dedicated to St Mael and St Sulien, is steeped in history, and although it has been considerably reconstructed, there are many fittings from the early medieval period. Look in the graveyard for the unusual “kneeling” stones at the foot of several graves and the epitaph of an engine driver. You might also find the dagger mark in the stone lintel above the south doorway; legend says this was made by a dagger thrown by the Welsh hero Owain Glyndŵr from Pen y Pigyn

The paths wind up through oak and birch woodland past the Gorsedd stone circle, constructed in 1919 for the opening ceremony of the National Eisteddfod. Close to the Gorsedd circle is the “Dagger Trail” – an easy 1/4 mile loop that leads past interesting sculptures to picnic sites. Red squirrels are known to be living in Cynwyd Forest, a couple of miles away, but unfortunately are very rarely seen.



- P Parking:**
Main car park in Corwen Town. Head to the old workhouse or the church to begin the walk.
- Length:**
2 mile linear or circular walk
- Time:**
1 – 2 hours
- Nearest Facilities:**
Town Centre

Follow the main path up the steps by the stone wall and you will reach the monument and stunning views across the beautiful landscape.

The monument was built in 1863 to commemorate the marriage of the then Prince of Wales, later Edward VII, and restored in 1911 for the investiture of his grandson (later Edward VIII). It was restored again in 2014 in readiness for the return of the railway service to Corwen.

RIVERSIDE WALKS

There are 2 easy ways to enjoy the river from Corwen town:

GRO ISA

Gro Isa is a grassland area which provides a haven for birds, butterflies and small mammals.

The name refers to the gravel river bed, which is present on this section of the River Dee. The banks of the river are edged with willow and reeds and the shallow waters are an excellent place for river dipping. Please keep away from the fast, deep water though, and ensure all animals are returned to their habitats.

A short walk down Green Lane (the junction near the Owain Glyndwr statue) leads to the playground. Look out for the fingerpost pointing the way to Gro Isa.



Length:
1 mile there and back



Time:
40 minutes



The old refuse tip for Corwen is located part way along the path behind the sports fields, and you may spot pieces of pottery and interesting old bottles beside it.

Part of the boundary of Gro Isa is made up of large upright slate slabs – a method peculiar to the Corwen area and in particular the Rhug Estate.

DÔL AFON

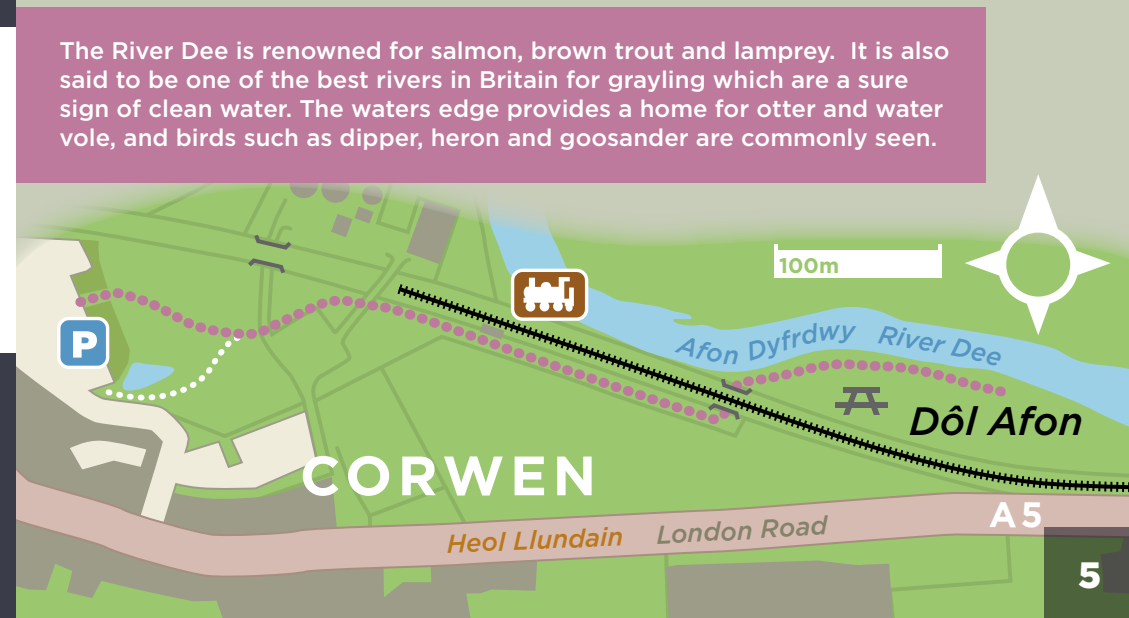
Follow the path alongside the platform at Corwen East to the short tunnel beneath the railway. The meadow by the river is full of wildflowers and insects. It is an excellent place to watch the river go by, enjoy the passing trains, and watch out for wildlife.



Length:
1 mile there and back



Time:
40 minutes



The River Dee is renowned for salmon, brown trout and lamprey. It is also said to be one of the best rivers in Britain for grayling which are a sure sign of clean water. The waters edge provides a home for otter and water vole, and birds such as dipper, heron and goosander are commonly seen.

CAER DREWYN

A walk up to Caer Drewyn hillfort provides a chance to explore this fascinating Iron Age site and offers fantastic views across the countryside.

Follow the Hillfort symbol for a 2 mile circular walk and audio trail, taking in Caer Drewyn and Corwen Cutting.

The walk begins on Corwen cutting, which was once the railway line between Corwen and Ruthin.

Caer Drewyn hillfort was built sometime between 600 BC and 43 AD, but unlike other hillforts in the area, it doesn't have earthen banks and ditches but a large dry stone wall. Inside the ramparts there are remains of the stone foundations of some of the round houses. Stories say a beautiful woman, the sweetheart of the giant, Drewyn, milked her cows here.

Caer Drewyn is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. It is protected as being an important archaeological site in Wales.



Parking:

Leisure Centre off B5437 (alternative parking in the town centre)



Length:

2 mile circular



Time:

1 - 2 hours



Nearest Facilities:

Leisure Centre

The site has not been excavated and there are still many questions about its history: -

Why are there some mysterious circular 'holes' in some of the walls?

Where did the stones come from?

There are no large quarries in the area and no sign of a ditch yet tons and tons of stones have been used!

The stones are covered in places with very rare lichens which have developed over 2000 years on the rocky habitat of the walls. It is a good place to see yellow hammers, and large numbers of ravens gather here in autumn. Their aerial acrobatics are a joy to watch.

CORWEN

CYNWYD RAILWAY LINE AND LLANGAR CHURCH

This old railway line once carried trains from Corwen to Barmouth, but now provides a lovely walk through woodlands and grasslands. The nearby River Dee is home to otters, kingfishers and sandpipers, with cormorant, goosander and heron being frequent visitors.

Walk west along the A5 to the Cynwyd turning. Follow the North Berwyn Way or Brenig Way signs and please keep to the line of the path through the private gardens.

LLANGAR CHURCH

Half way between Corwen and Cynwyd, you pass the fascinating Llangar Church, now owned by Cadw, which is well worth a visit.

According to documents of 1730, the original name of the church was Llan-Garw-Gwyn, church of the white deer. The story says that a white deer, disturbed from the site of the church, ran off and its path established the boundaries of the parish.

The earliest mention of the church is in 1291. It has been beautifully restored and includes amazing wall paintings from the 14th Century.



Parking:

Town Centre car parks



Length:

3 miles return to Llangar



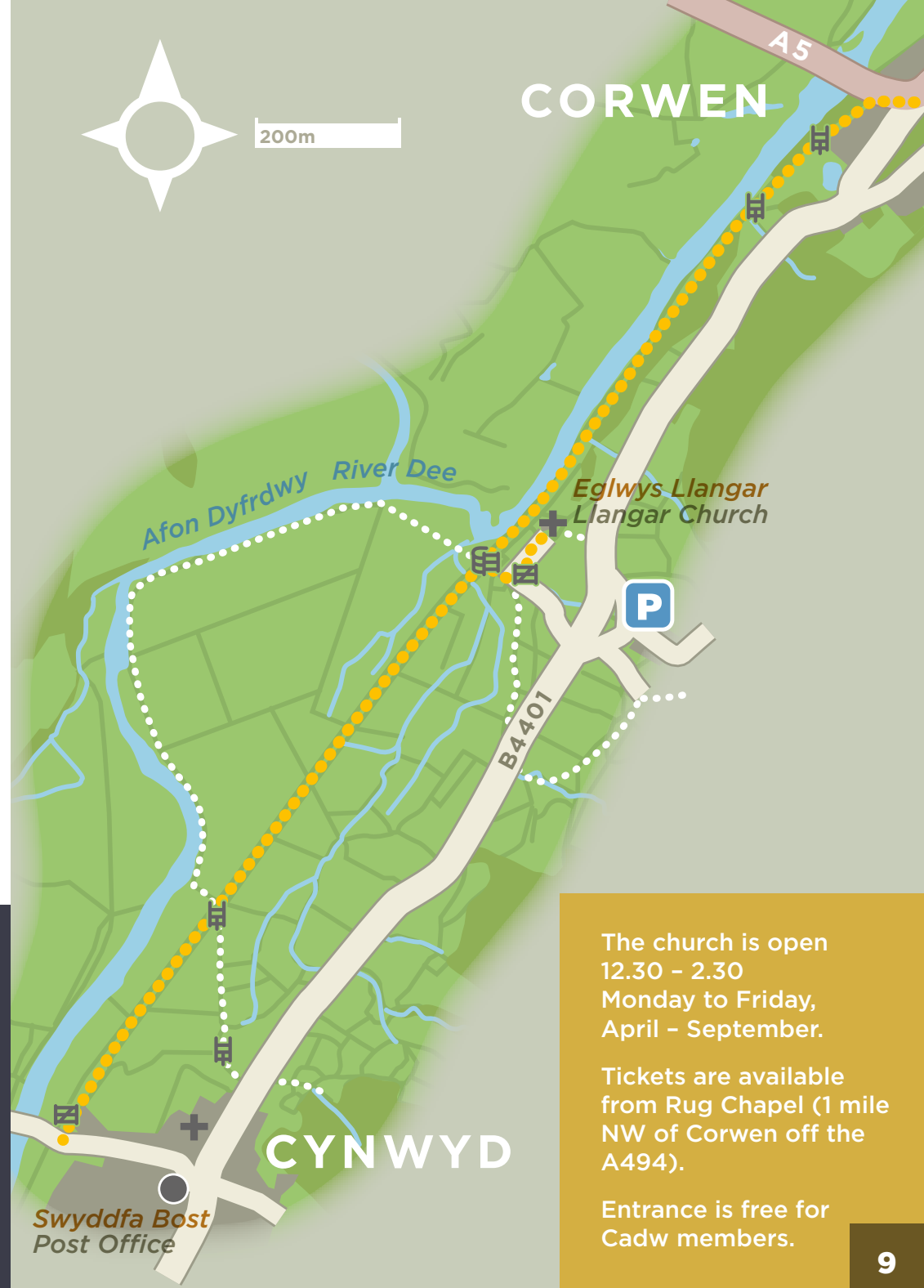
Time:

1 - 2 hours



Nearest Facilities:

Corwen Town Centre



The church is open
12.30 - 2.30
Monday to Friday,
April - September.

Tickets are available
from Rug Chapel (1 mile
NW of Corwen off the
A494).

Entrance is free for
Cadw members.

GLYNDYFRDWY

Glyndyfrdwy lies in a beautiful spot in the Dee Valley, nestling between the heather clad Llantysilio Mountains and wild Berwyn range, either of which can be explored using the Dee Valley Way or North Berwyn Way.

A less challenging, but wonderful walk, can be found on the southern edge of the village, just behind the Owain Glyndŵr Memorial Hall (which houses some interesting memorabilia if you find it open). The Nant y Pandy walk leads you up through an enchanting wooded valley to the ruins of the slate works, which are a fascinating glimpse of the industrial past. The walk returns along the old tramway and is a little over 2 km (about a mile) in total.

THINGS TO DO

- Visit the Owain Glyndŵr Memorial Hall and view local memorabilia
- Enjoy the views from the Berwyn Arms
- Take a walk up the Nant y Pandy to the old slate works
- Visit St Thomas' Church - open daily
- Catch the train



CARROG

Carrog was originally known as Llansantffraid Glyn Dyfrdwy and was one of the homes of Owain Glyndŵr. His manor house was located near the 12th century motte near the A5. It was here that he proclaimed himself Prince of Wales and started his rebellion against English rule in 1400.

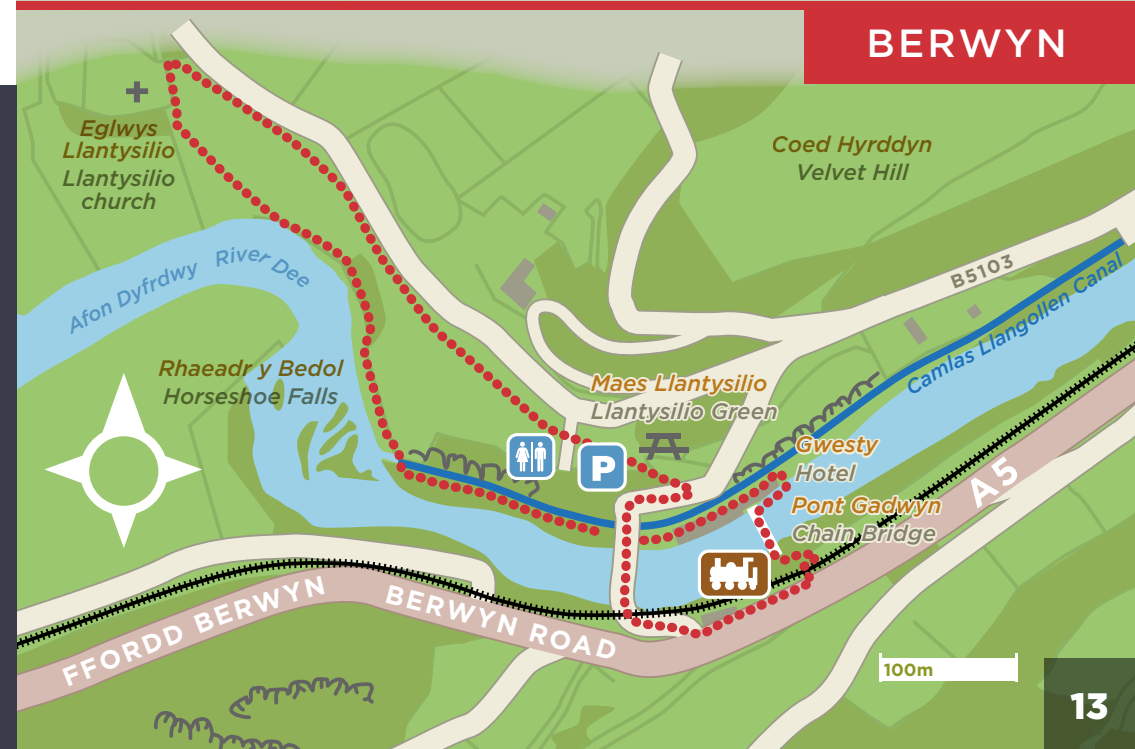
The arrival of the railway in 1865 had a huge effect on the village – the railway makers struggled with the length of the name and named the station after a local farm. Soon after, the village itself also became known as Carrog, and wealthy businessmen built imposing holiday homes here for their families.

The river Dee runs gently under the bridge, built in 1661, and a riverside footpath provides an excellent spot for watching out for wildlife.



THINGS TO DO

- Stroll around the village – can spot where Owain Glyndŵr’s prison, “Carchardy”, used to be?
- Enjoy a walk by the river
- Enjoy the views from the Grouse Inn
- Visit Owain Glyndwr’s Motte (access from the A5 on a permissive path, courtesy of Carrog Station Camp Site)
- Visit the village church
- Catch the train



BERWYN

The railway station at Berwyn is located at a narrow point in the Dee Valley, where all the historic transport routes squeeze through together. The road and railway intertwine their bridges over river and canal, and the refurbished Chain Bridge now offers pedestrians the chance to cross again.

Across the river lies the Llangollen Canal, which has its very beginnings just a short walk to the west at the Horseshoe Falls. The first 11 miles of the canal were declared a World Heritage Site in 2009 on account of the amazing feats of engineering, including the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, that were achieved by William Jessop and Thomas Telford.

Just beyond the Horseshoe Falls is the lovely Llantysilio Church, with its captivating churchyard and fascinating windows. The picnic site at Llantysilio Green offers a fantastic view of the Falls against the backdrop of the distinctive Llantysilio mountains.

MAP OVERLEAF



THINGS TO DO

- Cross the newly refurbished Chain Bridge
- Visit the Horseshoe Falls – the start of the Pontcysyllte and Canal World Heritage Site
- Visit the beautiful Llantysilio Church
- Watch the river (and canoeists) go by from the comfort of the Chainbridge Hotel
- Catch the train
- Try the “Horseshoe Quest” App

