

Abbey Cwmhir Heritage Trust

Ymddiriedolaeth Treftadaeth Abaty Cwmhir

# Cwmhir Community Heritage Walk

## A longer walk with magnificent views



**Start:** Start at the notice board next to the village green.

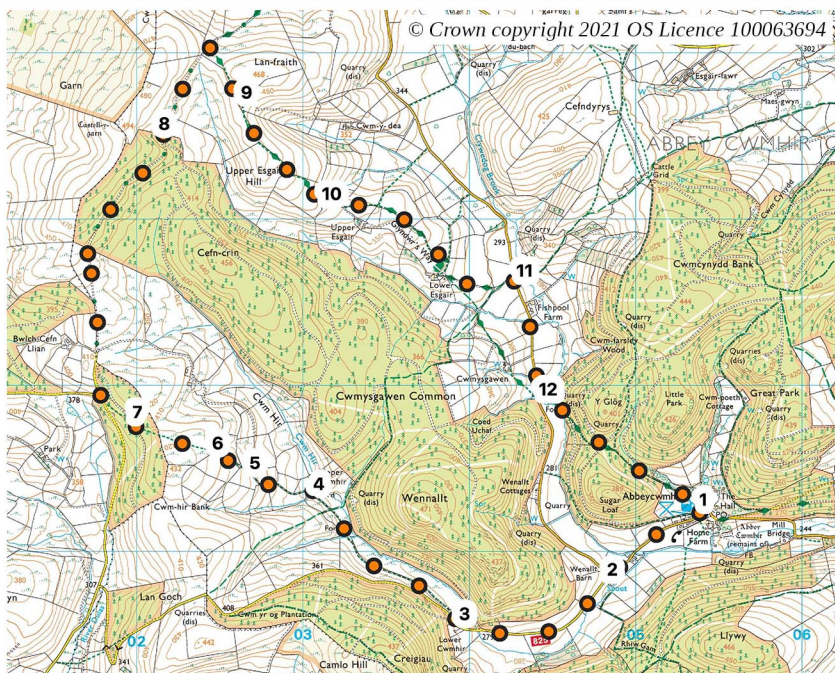


(what3words = satin.foster.directors)

**Difficulty:** Strenuous.

**Distance:** 11.5 kilometers 7.2 miles.

**Duration:** 4.5 hours approximately.



**1.** From the notice board turn right and follow the road out of the village passing the village green and Philips Hall on your right.

**2.** Continue until the road forks at Wenallt Barn. Take the left hand fork signposted Rhayader.

**Wenallt Barn, rebuilt in 1919, used to be a small farmstead with buildings round three sides of a square yard. Aerial photographs of "parchmarks" in dry summers have indicated possible buried structures in this area. Wenallt Barn is thought to be on or near the location of a monastic building, possibly a farm or watermill.**

**3.** Continue along the road. You will pass a forestry entrance on the right and Cwmhir Cottages on the left.

**Lower Cwmhir. Today there are two cottages (Cwmhir Cottages) at this point, just above the bridge. At the time of the Tithe Survey, 1840, there appears to have been a small farmstead here. There is an older building behind the houses.**

Go through the kissing gate across the road from Cwmhir Cottages and follow the track leading through the field. Continue to follow track through another gate.

**4.** Go through gate and follow track round to the left.

**Upper Cwmhir. There has been a farmstead on this site for over 200 years. The original building, which is parallel to the stream, would have had the house at one end and the byre at the other. It was extensively repaired in the 1820's, when the bricks were introduced to the building. The interior shows that some of the rooms were made by timber divisions. Just to the north of the house is a good example of a 19th Century barn built in the Radnorshire style.**

Go through another gate and continue to follow track uphill.

**5.** Where the track branches continue straight ahead going uphill.

**Monks Way. This is an ancient route which may have been used by the monks as they journeyed to the monastery at Strata Florida. Note the steep banks to each side, often a sign of an old road, known also as a hollow-way.**

**6.** Go through gate into an open field following the fence line on your right until you reach two gates. Go through the second (lefthand) gate. Head straight ahead with the gate behind you. As you reach the top of the hill you will see a fenced woodland ahead. Make your way to the stile in the



Looking east from Lower Cwmhir



fence, go over this and enter woodland. Follow path between the trees.

**7.** The path emerges onto a forestry road. Turn right and follow road for approximately 35 metres then turn left onto path going through the trees. Path leads onto the public road. Turn right onto the road and take the right hand fork in the road going uphill.

***This is the Garn Road, another very ancient route which runs in a north-south direction. It also served another purpose, marking the boundary between the parishes of St. Harmon and Llanbister, as well as the boundary between the ancient hundreds of Rhayader and Knighton. The hundreds were administrative divisions of the county, dating back to medieval times.***

The road becomes a gravel road and enters the forestry. Continue following the road.

**8.** The road curves round to the right. Do not follow it round, but continue straight ahead, through gate onto a track. Continue following the track through another gate going downhill. Look out for a marker post with a yellow cap on the left with a copse of trees on the right. You are now on Glyndŵr's Way, which is clearly waymarked.

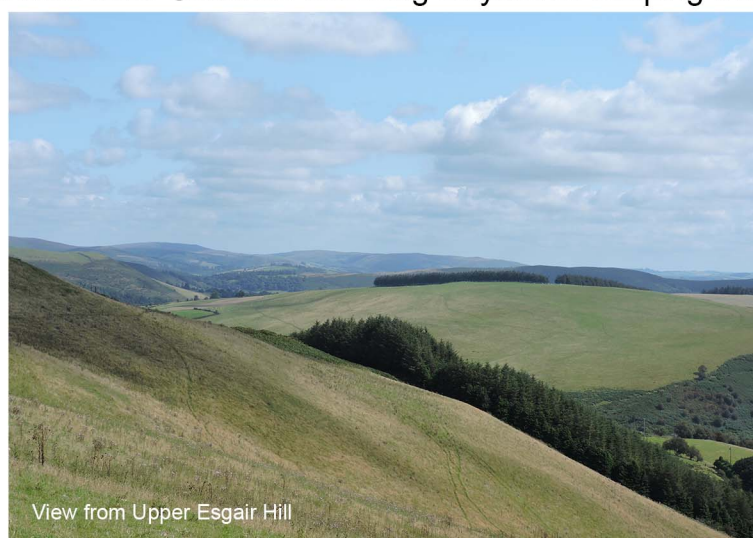
Turn right just before the trees and continue on with the trees on your left and the fence line on your right.

**9.** At the end of the trees continue ahead still keeping the fence line on your right. You will come to a corner post in this fence with a Glyndŵr's Way marker. Continue following the fence keeping this on your right. Go through the next gate waymarked Glyndŵr's way into a small paddock.

Enjoy the extensive views from this point.

Cross the paddock and go through walkers' gate into the next field. Continue following waymarks keeping the fence line on your left.

**10.** Go through waymarked gate. Continue straight ahead across the field with the gate behind you. Head towards walkers' gate in the fence on the other side of this field. Go through this gate and follow the fence line on your left until you come to a yellow capped post. Follow the direction of the arrow, going diagonally to your right across the field to a waymarked farm gate. Go through the gate onto a farm track. Follow this track until you come to the second gate on your left (waymarked). Go through this gate following the arrow and with the fence line on your right. When you reach another waymarked walkers' gate, pass through this onto a track. Continue following this track.



**11.** The track emerges onto a public road. Turn right and follow the road.

**12.** As you pass Foresters House on your right look out for a horse stile and gate on your left. Go over the horse stile and follow the path ahead. This is known locally as Watery Lane.

***Watery Lane is an ancient route that would have been used by the monks to reach their fishpools just north of Fishpool Farm. It is suggested that this part of Glyndŵr's Way was also a drover's road, along which drovers moved cattle, sheep and pigs to markets in the Welsh Marches and beyond.***

Continue over the bridge following the path uphill. Cross over another track and continue uphill. Cross over a gravel road continuing to follow a path downhill and through gates.

***This sunken "hollow way" was part of an ancient track north from the village.***

You will pass St. Mary's Church on your left and the track will emerge onto the village road with the notice board on your right.

***You will find more information on the buildings in the village in the Village Community Heritage Walk route description.***

Care should be taken when walking in the countryside. Follow the Countryside Code, keep dogs on a lead, especially near grazing stock and respect people's property and privacy. Our walks are steep and uneven in places and these can become challenging as a result of inclement weather. Forestry operations periodically take place in woodlands so please observe all forestry notices. It is advised that appropriate footwear and clothing are worn on our walks and that consideration is always given to matters of safety.

Whilst the Trust has researched all the routes for these guides, no responsibility can be accepted for any unforeseen circumstances encountered. We would however appreciate any information regarding material changes or any problems encountered. [cwmhirabbey@gmail.com](mailto:cwmhirabbey@gmail.com)

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