



Abbey Cwmhir Heritage Trust  
Ymddiriedolaeth Treftadaeth Abaty Cwmhir

# Sugar Loaf Community Heritage Walk

## A circular walk through forestry, farmland and country lanes

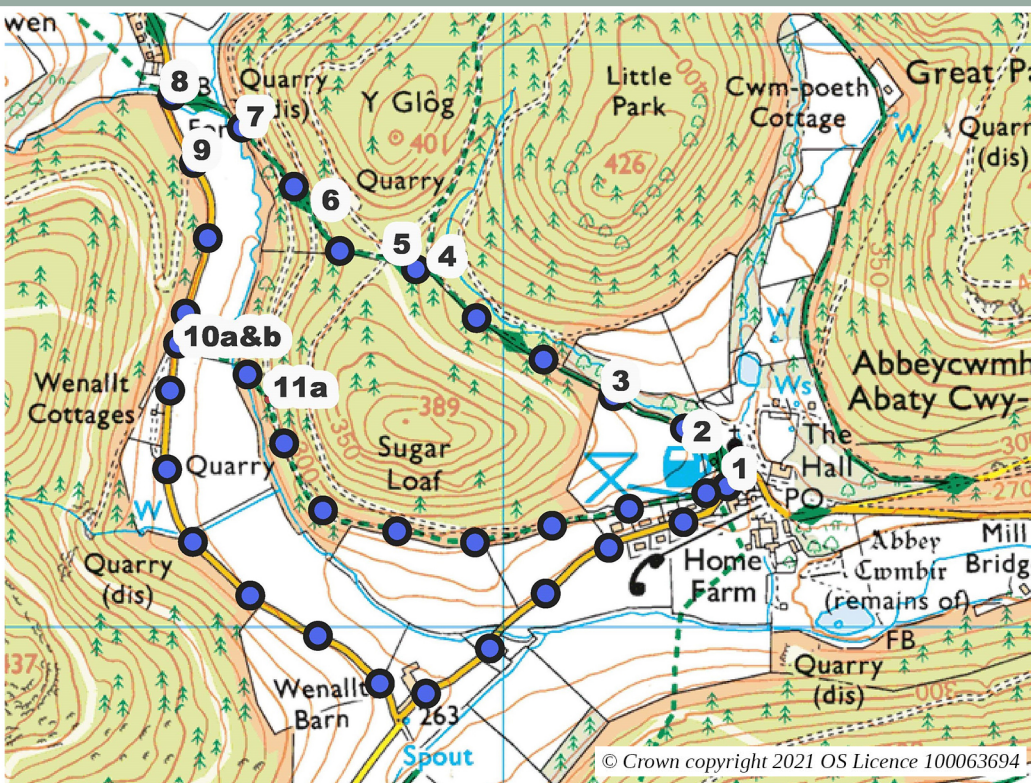


**Start:** Start at the notice board next to the village green.

**Difficulty:** Easy.

**Distance:** 3.6 kilometres 2.2 miles.

**Duration:** 1 hour approximately.



**1.** With the notice board behind you, make your way to the petrol pump and turn left following Glyndŵr's Way waymarking (immediately to the left of the petrol pump). Next to the petrol pump you will see Cross Cottage.

*Glyndŵr's Way is a 135 mile (217 km) long National Trail meandering through mid-Wales. Starting in Knighton and ending in Welshpool, the Trail is named after Owain Glyndŵr, Prince of Wales and Medieval Welsh nationalist leader who organised a rebellion against Henry IV in 1400.*

*Cross Cottage was built in 1858 by Francis Aspinall Philips and was the first school in Abbeycwmhir. Children from the very youngest up to the age of 12 or 13 were all in the same class and were taught by the village schoolmaster or schoolmistress. It is said that the children made too much noise for The Hall, which was close by and in 1868 the school was relocated to a new building about 200 yards along the road out of the village. The school then became a laundry for The Hall. It is still known in the village as "The Laundry". When the Estate was sold it became occupied as a private house.*

You will pass St. Mary's Church on your right. Behind the church you will see The Hall.

*The church is modelled on a Gothic style church in Brittany and was built by the Philips family in 1866. Inside are stained glass windows by the 19th Century glass artists Heaton, Butler and Bayne who did work for Queen Victoria and Clayton and Bell. The rose window is said to be the best in Radnorshire. The church interior was designed to reflect the new style of Anglican worship which was adopted by the Victorians. On each side of the churchyard you will see a large, ancient yew tree, an indicator of a sacred site that has been used for a long time. The trees are thought to be more than 1100 years old.*

**2.** Go through the five bar gate and keep right following the fence line.

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

**3.** Go through the second five bar gate.

**4.** At the next Glyndŵr's Waymarker keep left steadily climbing upwards.



St. Mary's Churchyard



**5.** At the brow of the hill and crossing another track go straight over and steadily down following Glyndŵr's Way waymarking.

**6.** Continue following the track until you come to the crossroads with the main forest track going right to left. Go straight over again following Glyndŵr's Way.

**7.** You will go over one horse stile down to Clywedog Brook. Take the track to the right and go over the Brook via the wooden bridge. Take the track (known locally as Watery Lane) up to the main road and go over the second horse stile.

**8.** Turn left onto the main road. Across the road you will see the Forester's House.

*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.*

*Forester's House was built in 1953 when the Forestry Commission started operating in the area. Planting operations were carried out from here.*

*As you come out onto the road there is an opening leading into the forestry on the right. This is Jubilee Wood. Inside are the Coronation Beech and Coronation Plaque.*



**9.** Keep on the main road past Coed Sarnau Forestry Sign (do not take this path). You will see Wenallt Cottages on your right, set back from the road.

**10a.** Opposite Wenallt Cottages there is a footpath off to the left into a field. Go through the gate and keep to the right of the field. At the bottom of the field you will come to a bridge. Cross the bridge, go through the gate and follow the path back up to the forestry track.

**11a.** Turn right and follow the forestry track back to the village. At the end of the track, turn right into the main road to return to the Village Green and Notice Board.

### **Alternative route avoiding short section of steep path:**

**10b.** Continue on the main road until you get to a T-junction at Wenallt Barn. Turn left onto the village road and make your way back through the village to the Village Green and Notice Board.

*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,*



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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