

WALK 6: PARTRISHOW

BRING WALKING BOOTS, & CLOTHES SUITABLE FOR THE WEATHER

HISTORY WALK

The little parish of Partrishow (or Patricio), about 1,500 acres in area, is on the Western side of the Grwyne Fawr valley.

Part of the manor of Crickhowell, it is in Brecknockshire, now Powys. There is no village, and the parish comprises only the church and about twenty scattered farms, some now abandoned. The population was 76 in 1851, and is less than half that today.

P PARKING OPPOSITE ST. ISSUI'S WELL

OS map OL 13: Grid Ref SO 31077 22160

Distance: Southern Section 2½ miles

Northern Section 3 miles

Duration: 3 hours (About 1½ hours for each section)

Difficulty: Moderate, including a ford; can be muddy. About 300ft of ascent.

The walk begins at St Issui's Well. As the modern road up the valley was not built until 1912, much of the walk is on ancient tracks and bridleways.

The northern section leads to the Mynydd Du forest, planted on former farmland in the mid-20th century.

NORTHERN ROUTE

- 1** Visit the well and then walk along the road, past the church, to Llwyn-y-brain. This is a working sheep farm. Keep to the path, leaving the house and barn on your left.
- 2** The road becomes a greenway. Continue through a metal gate and **bear left**. After crossing two fields, the track descends to a stream (parish boundary).
- 3** Ford the stream and **enter the forest** through a metal wicket gate.
- 4** **Bear left up the slope** with a smaller stream to the left. After 150 yards, the path continues with a mossy wall on the left.
- 5** Turn left onto a stony track. Continue through Ffordd-las-fawr, and exit the forest through another metal wicket gate.
- 6** **Ford the stream**, and **bear left** along a track, that then curves to the right. Continue along the moor, with the mountain wall on your left. Views to Upper House (white) and Ty-mawr (yellow) on the Fwyddog ridge, and to the Hatteral beyond.
- 7** After 500 yards, **leave the moor** through two metal gates to a stony track, which re-joins the road. **Turn right** to return to the church.

SOUTHERN ROUTE

- 8** Enter the churchyard through the lych-gate on your right and **visit the church**.
- 9** On leaving the church, **turn left** and leave the churchyard through a kissing gate.
- 10** A narrow path ahead broadens to a greenway, with the cross-shaped roofs of Ty'n-y-llwyn below. **Follow the track round to the right**.
- 11** Continue through the farmyard at Ty'n-y-llwyn and down a concrete driveway to the road. **Turn right**.

- 12** Follow the road for 300 yards. Immediately after Gwernybustach take the bridleway **signed on the right**.

- 13** Continue along a **green lane** through two metal gates. On the left views of the Fwyddog ridge with the hamlet of New Inn and Twyn y Gaer hillfort, and ahead of the Sugar Loaf. Descend through a field to **Ty-mawr**; ruined buildings on your right (500 yards).

- 14** **Fork right** (wall to left) and continue along the lane to a gate. The lane then runs between trees, emerging on a road below Gelliwelltog. This section may be overgrown during the summer. **Turn right**.

- 15** Continue up the hill to a T-junction at Pen-y-bair. Views towards Llanbedr parish which begins at the bottom of the hill. **Turn right**.

Continue for about a mile, past Yr Hen Ysgoldy and the Dower House.

- 16** Staying on the road, descend to St Issui's well and back to your car.

Look out for the other walk leaflets in this series devised by the LV&D History Group.

Map & leaflet by Lisa Hellier. Words by Oliver Fairclough.

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HISTORY WALKS IN THE LLANTHONY VALLEY & ENVIRONS

6

PARTRISHOW HISTORY WALK

A Varied Landscape Walk Along Ancient Tracks & Bridleways



CROESO I'N
TEITHIAU
CERDDO
HANES



Supported by the Sustainable Development Fund
Brecknock National Park Authority
Cwmwllyd y Gwlad, Cwmwllyd Cymalawdy
Parc Cenedlaethol Bannau Brycheiniog



A THE HOLY WELL

The well, fed by the Nant Mair brook, is said to be where Issui, a 6th century Celtic saint, built his hermit's cell and was later murdered. It remains a place of pilgrimage today. A church dedicated to Issui, was built on the hillside overlooking the well, in about 1060, shortly before the Normans began their conquest of south Wales.

B LLŴYN-Y-BRAIN



Llwyn-y-Brain was owned by the Price family of Fforddlas in the 18th century, and is still a working farm. The house is a longhouse, dating from around 1600, and the downhill end, originally the byre, has been rebuilt and heightened.

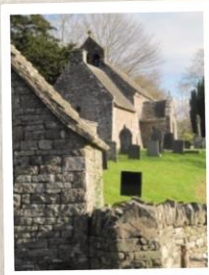
C Ffordd-LAS FAWR

Fordd-las fawr was a 100-acre farm in the hamlet of Grwyne Fawr, which prior to 1900 was part of the large parish of Talgarth. Its owner, William Price (1718-1793) is styled *William Price of Fforddlase, Gent.* on a monument in Partrishow Church.



Acquired by the Gwernfyed estate in 1839, its land was sold to the Forestry Commission in 1932. The house is probably another 17th century longhouse, with a new wing facing the yard, built in 1841.

D ST ISSUI'S CHURCH



The nave was rebuilt in the 15th century and has a plaster barrel-vaulted ceiling. The Latin inscription on the 11th century font:

'MENHIR ME FECIT
I(N) TE(M)PORE
GENILLIN.'

records that it was made in the time of Cynhillin, Lord of Ystrad Yw.

The chapel at the West end contains a stone altar, probably over Issui's grave.

The early-16th century rood screen is one of the glories of this church. It is carved with vine leaves and wyverns (two-legged dragons).



Note the 17th century skeleton figure of death on the West wall.



After the Reformation the walls were painted with biblical texts. Many of the 18th century memorial tablets in the chancel were made by the Brute family of masons from the nearby village of Llanbedr.

E TY'N-Y-LLŴYN

The lime-washed house was built in 1598-9 as a longhouse (with cattle then stalled at the downhill end). Extended in the 17th century - note the double chimney-stack dated 1649 - and little changed since.



A 120-acre mixed (pastoral and arable) farm, Ty'n-y-llwyn was the home of the Powell family for over two hundred years. Its stone outbuildings include the 17th century threshing barn, byre, and stable, as well as a later cart shed, cider press, grain-drying kiln, and pigsties.

F GWERNYBUSTACH



This farmstead comprises three buildings round a yard. In the centre is the farmhouse, built across the slope, to the right a large stable or byre (now converted to domestic use) and to the left, a detached building, perhaps originally a kitchen or bakehouse. Although much altered, all three probably date from 1600 to 1650.

G TY-MAWR (RUIN)

Ty-mawr is a mystery. The L-shaped house, perhaps dating from the 16th century, is very ruinous, and was abandoned before 1760. The land was later acquired by Pontyspig, at the bottom of the valley. The substantial ruins closer to the path are those of a late 18th century barn.

H GELLIWELLTOG

Gelliwelltog is also of seventeenth century origin with a later side wing.



Once one of the larger farms in the parish, its threshing barn (c.1750) is on the right of the road. Its stable and byre, rebuilt in the late 19th century, are on the left.

I YR HEN YSGOLDY & DOWER HOUSE



Yr Hen Ysgoldy (the old schoolhouse) was built or rebuilt in 1823. In the mid-19th century it was the home of Lewis Williams, an elderly tailor, who had a small school here. The Dower House was built in 1868. Its name may be a local joke as its early occupants were elderly widows.