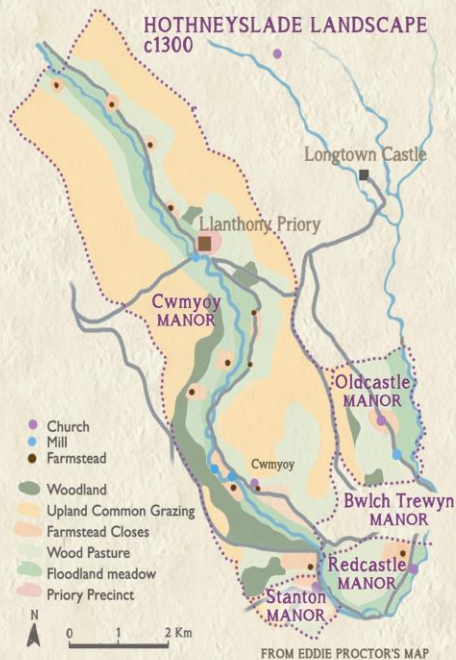


BRING WALKING BOOTS, & CLOTHES SUITABLE FOR THE WEATHER

Manors were administrative, social, legal and economic units established following the Norman conquest. From the 12th century the Llanthony Priory Hothneyslade Lordship included Cwmyoy manor and sub-manors of Redcastle, Oldcastle, and Stanton. Bwlch Trewyn was a sub-manor in the Manor of Ewyas Lacy. Most of the walk passes through Bwlch Trewyn and Redcastle with a small incursion into Cwmyoy; we look down on Oldcastle and Stanton Manors. We view a Bronze Age cairn, an iron age fort, and a late 17th century settlement.



- 1** Walk to the **Queen's Head** to pay the fee.
- 2** Walk back and take the road down to the right; cross the bridge and walk up to Oaklands farm
- 3** **Turn right**, up the lane with the blue sign.
- 4** Just before Dan-y-bwlch turn left and walk up the greenway to **two gates opposite each other**.
- 5** Go through the left gate or climb the nearby stile; **follow the contour** to a gap between two trees, then go down to, and through, a gateway; climb up steeply through a field newly planted with trees, keeping to the left of the tree avenue and both woodland fences; cross a stile at the top of the field then head for a gate to the left of **Upper Pentwyn Farm**.
- 6** **Turn right** and walk through the farmyard and along the track to join the main car-track.
- 7** **Turn left** and follow the track.
- 8** Continue on the track past **Three Wells and Yew Tree Cottage**.
- 9** Just after **Yew Tree Cottage** climb the open ground to a wall on the right; follow the wall to the top then take the path towards the **Beacons Way** and walk up to the trig point.

Go back down to **10** and take the **left fork** which passes 'The Castle' on the right; explore inside, then carry on to visit **Pentwyn Fort**.

- 11** Rejoin the car track and continue down to join the road.
- 12** **Pass through the crossroads** and shortly take the track on the right to **Strawberry Wood**.
- 13** Follow the path above **Strawberry Wood Barn**; go down through the wood to **Strawberry Cottage**
- 14** Take the path on the right of the **River Honddu**. When you reach the road, climb over the stile, cross the bridge and walk back to your car.

P WALKERS CAR PARK - ACROSS THE ROAD FROM THE QUEEN'S HEAD PUB: £2

OS map OL 13: Grid Ref SO 31077 22160

Approx. Distance: 5 miles

Duration: 3-4 hours, leisurely

About 1000 feet of ascent with steep climbs
Difficulty: Moderate to difficult,
with uneven ground and stiles.



HISTORY WALKS IN THE LLANTHONY VALLEY & ENVIRONS

5

THREE
MANORS
WALK

A Vigorous
Climb with
Exceptional
Views

CROESO I'N
TEITHIAU
CERDDED
HANES

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

Map and leaflet design by Lisa Hellier. Words by Pip Bevan.

www.llanthonyhistory.wales



Supported by the Sustainable Development Fund
Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
Cynorthwyd gan y Gronfa Datblygu Cynaliadwy
Parc Cenedlaethol Brecon Beacons



A THE QUEEN'S HEAD INN

In 1801 the Queen's Head, also known as New Inn, was owned by Hugh Powell, a local man who made a fortune in London, whose many local holdings included Llanvihangel Court. Around the inn were a smith's shop, stable, garden, yard and four parcels of land. In 1906 AG Bradley described it as a 'snug little wayside fishing inn' which was a centre for fishing clubs renting water on the Honddu.



B BWLCH TREWYN MANOR

Bwlch Trewyn sub-manor was bought from the Winstons by the Delahay family in the 17th century. They rebuilt the listed Trewyn House in 1692; also listed are Trewyn Manor, built around 1700, and Trewyn Farm. The lordship and manor were sold to the Rosher family in 1775.



The manor bordered Cwmyoy along the Honddu near Pont Rhys Powell and on Hatterall ridge the border went through the Three Wells settlement. The border with Redcastle followed streams on both sides of the ridge. In 1871 there were 17 houses and a population of 95.



C VERNACULAR HOUSES 15TH/16TH CENTURIES

From the track look across to Little Llwygy (Redcastle): built in the early 16th century as a one-room hall house, with a 3-storey wing added in about 1610. (The photo shows the house before recent extensive work). Dan-y-bwlch (Bwlch Trewyn) first built in the late C16, had two rooms, a cross passage and beast house. The oldest house in the valley is Llwyn Celyn (Cwmyoy), built in 1420, and modernised around 1690. It has recently been restored by the Landmark Trust and is a holiday let.

D UPPER & LOWER PENTWYN

Upper Pentwyn in Bwlch Trewyn was a 70-acre upland farm with threshing barn and byre. The house was condemned in the 1960s and stood empty until it was listed and restored in the 1990s.

The farmhouse, later enlarged at the rear, was built during the 17th century and a fireplace in the kitchen is dated 1708. Lower Pentwyn started

as a two-room house built into the bank; the house still has the original oak beams, remains of small mullion windows and a (probably) 17th century oak partition. Until the 1950s it was a 23 acre farm.



E THREE WELLS SETTLEMENT

This consisted of a number of small farms which were probably established through encroachment in the 18th century. Three Wells, Yewtree and Boxtree cottages are still inhabited; there are also a number of derelict buildings and a lot of stone walls.

F THREE WELLS EARLY BRONZE AGE ROUND CAIRN MAP

A well-preserved and largely intact burial monument: 8m in diameter and 0.3m high; a turf-covered heap of boulders makes up the body of the cairn. To the north-west are the Garreg Las round cairns.



G THE CASTLE

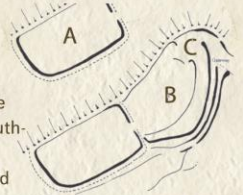
The large walled enclosure on top of the ridge was known as the Castle. It has a spring and was probably used for upland stock; there are the remains of a wall down the middle and of a substantial building which was occupied in the 19th century.



H PENTWYN IRON AGE FORT

The fort was probably built in three stages: area A was a simple enclosure initially enlarged by B with the more complex entrance in the south-east corner (C) added later, alongside a heightening and strengthening of the massive northern rampart.

The changes suggest it had become a high status site, or there was a serious threat in the area.



I REDCASTLE

Redcastle hill is the result of a terminal moraine so the land is fertile. There is a record of Redcastle manor in 1279 and it was categorised as a manor, rectory and church in the Priory's holdings at Dissolution. At the bottom of the hill at Treveddw there was a motte and bailey castle and Lower Treveddw, an early house uphill of the motte, which was demolished in the 1950s, may have been the manorial court.

