

Llangurig: Village, Hill and Riverside

Distance and time Two linear walks – Village and Hillside walk 2.6km (1–1.5hours); Riverside walk 3km (1–1.5 hours).

Brief description of the walk and path conditions

Llangurig is the first settlement on the River Wye from its source in a squelchy peat bog on Pumlumon, Mid Wales' highest mountain, about 8 miles (12.8km) to the west. There are two linear easy access walks on tarmac surfaces. They follow lightly-trafficked country lanes to the south of the village. The Riverside walk follows a level route which keeps close to the river (approx 3 km) and the other climbs gently uphill to reach an area of open hillside with good views down to the Wye Valley (approx 2.6km). ***The last stretch of the Village and Hillside walk is on a stony, uneven track.***

Start point for the walks and facilities

Both walks start from the car park on the southern outskirts of the village. From the main road (A44), take the lane directly opposite the Black Lion Hotel and you will find the car park down on the left after 150m. There are no facilities here.

Relevant OS Maps

Explorer Map 214 – Llanidloes and Newtown

Outdoor Leisure Map 135 – Aberystwyth and Machynlleth

Detailed Walk description

Most people drive through Llangurig on their way to or from Aberystwyth without stopping, but it is well worth spending a little more time here. Users of both walks may wish to visit St Curig's Church which is approached through a lychgate in the main street. Take care when crossing the gridiron situated in this gateway. If the church is locked, a key may be borrowed from the village shop and Post Office nearby. St Curig's is one of the earliest sites of Christian worship in the British Isles and dates back to the 12th century when it was under the control of the monks at Strata Florida Abbey. Curig

Crafts and Woollens, The Blue Bell Inn and the Black Lion Hotel are all close to the church.

Turn left out of the car park and cross the River Wye, noting a good view from the bridge downstream. Continue along the lane for 400m to cross a second bridge with low stone parapets where a side stream flows through a wooded dingle.

For the Riverside Walk, continue along the lane and do not turn right. It carries hardly any traffic, although you may see the occasional cyclist using this road, which forms part of National Cycle Route 8, linking Cardiff and Holyhead. A further 600m from the junction will bring you to a very placid stretch of the River Wye, with a grassy roadside verge. There are no facilities here, but it is a pleasant spot for a quiet picnic. (Alternatively you could drive your car to this spot).

For the hillside walk, turn right after crossing the second bridge with low stone parapets. The lane ascends gently uphill to reach The Clochfaen (pronounced Clock Vine) in 500m. This is an impressive building. The major part of the present house was either built or remodeled in 1914–15 to the designs of William Arthur Smith Benson, a leading figure in the Arts and Crafts Movement. The house was visited in 1917 by the Young Prince Albert, later George VI who was sent here to recuperate. The house was sold in 1927 to the Stirk family, who still retain an interest in the property.

Carry on past The Clochfaen for another 120m to reach the end of the tarmac. Continue straight on, passing through a steel field gate, and onto a stony, rather uneven track. A further 100m or so will bring you to the shoulder of the hill, from where you can enjoy excellent views down the Wye Valley towards Rhayader. From this point, retrace your route back downhill to the car park.