

**Circular Walk: Town Hall - West End Pool - Green Lane - Great Ley Field -
Colhugh Street - Methodist Lane - Town Hall.**

This walk of about 2 miles and about an hour long requires a pair of sturdy shoes but is an ideal family walk for it contains several points of interest for both adults and children alike. It is one which affords a great deal of history, all round scenic views and a good variety of bird life.

With the 11th century Swan inn opposite, the walk starts from the Town Hall, once a Norman manorial courthouse and later a Tudor guildhall, and proceeds down Burial Lane to St Iltyd's Church. Previously a monastery consisting of "little more than a few huts for the monks, a timber church and a cemetery" (1) and "traditionally founded in about 500 by St Iltyd" (2), it was sacked by the Vikings in 988 but is now an imposing Norman and medieval building well worth a visit not least for its collection of early Christian stones with the earliest dating from the late 9th century. The walk continues along Church Lane past a small orchard, through which the Odney Brook flows, until it reaches the junction with Dimland Road.

The walk turns left at the junction and proceeds directly across the crossroads approximately 75 yards ahead (thus leaving Dimland Road) to West End pool. The pool is favourite spot for all especially young families because it houses a small nature reserve containing plenty of Carp and a small reed bed in which moor-hens and coots can be seen. It also attracts other bird life such as finches and occasionally un-welcomed herons in search of a meal!

Continuing in a north-westerly direction for about 50 yards from the pool the walk enters a bridleway which climbs slightly for several hundred yards but rewards the walker with fine views not only Llantwit Major but also of the Somerset coast line to the south and the South Wales hinterland to the north. The bridleway joins Green Lane and then bears left to rejoin Dimland Road. Turn Left at the junction with Dimland Road and walk back towards West End Town for approximately 100 yards to the stile on the south side of Dimland Road.

Cross over the stile into a pasture field and walk south alongside the hedgerow passing the dilapidated remains of a windmill until the gate and stile marking the junction of the north-south and east-west hedgerows of the field is reached. The views of the English coastline at this particular location are marvelous and stretch from Bridgewater Bay, Somerset in the east to Bull Point in north Devon and include the Quantock Hills and Exmoor.

Turn east at this junction, keep close to the east-west hedgerow and cross this and another pasture field and 2 stiles. These fields contain cows (but no bulls) for most of the year and also provide plentiful supplies of blackberries during September and October and a good variety of birdlife including finches, blackbirds, jackdaws, rooks, wood pigeons, collared doves, herring gulls, lapwings and, during the summer and winter months, swallows and redwings respectively. The Old Vicarage with its imposing Victorian

grandeur and superb views of the Bristol Channel is situated at the eastern end of the second field and stile.

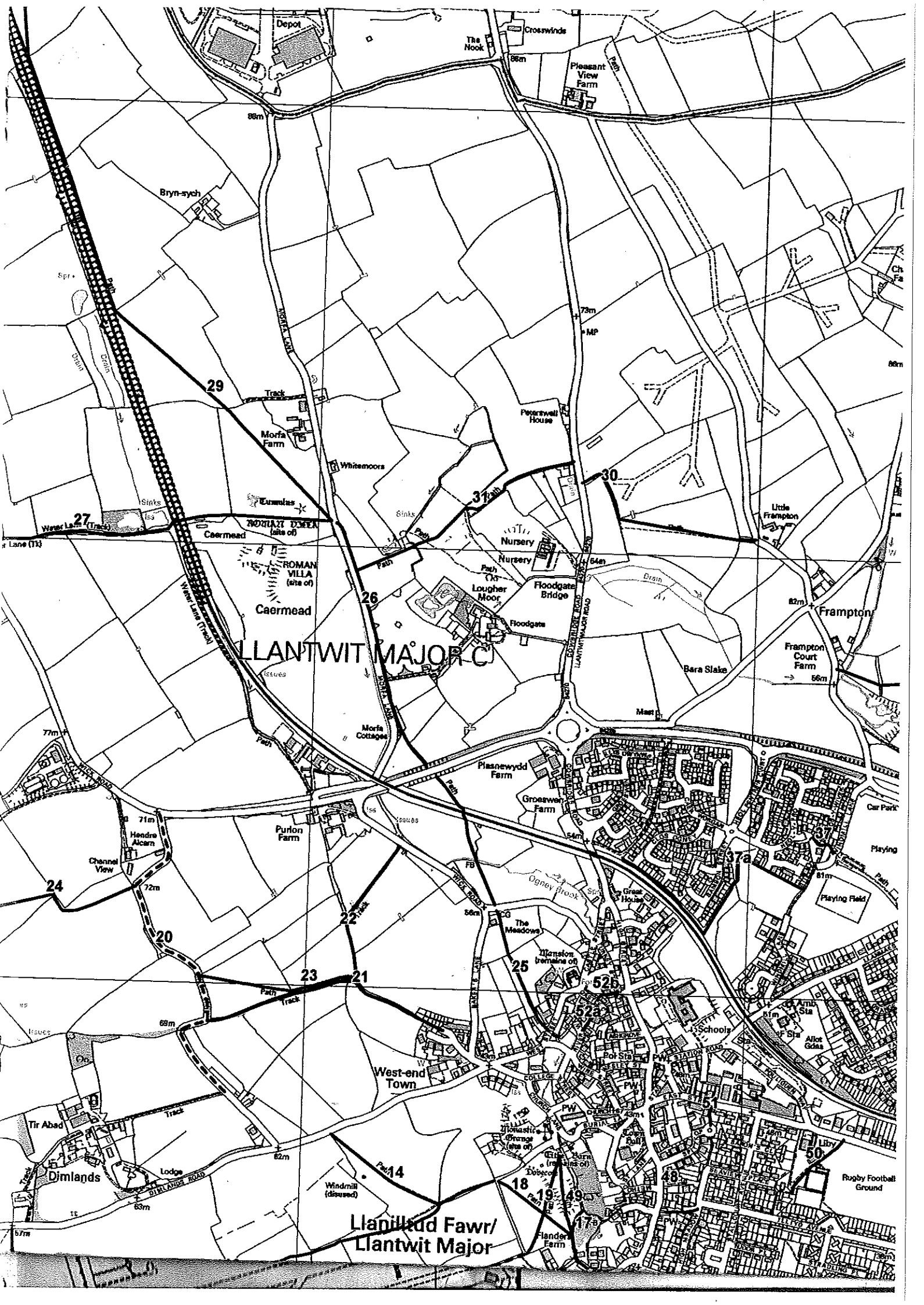
Cross the width of lane in front of the vicarage and pass over a stile on the south side of the lane into the Great Ley field. This is another pasture field sometimes containing cattle and sheep and also offering the same plentiful quantities of blackberries and birdlife. More importantly, the field is a medieval monastic site and forms part of the land given to the monks of Tewkesbury Abbey following the Norman conquest of coastal Glamorgan at the beginning of the 12th century. It contains the remains of farm buildings and a complete local limestone dovecote dating from the 13th century. A complete 13th century monastic grange gatehouse stands outside the Great Ley field 50 - 75 yards north-east of the dovecote.

Cross the Great Ley field in a south-easterly direction and cross a stile south of Hillhead Terrace. This leads in to a lane known locally as "Snakey Lane" which crosses Ogney Brook, heads east past the Scouts and Girl Guides buildings on its northern boundary and joins Colhugh Street. Turn left at this junction towards the town centre, take the first turning left roughly 50 yards ahead and proceed along Methodist Lane to the early 19th century Tabernacle Chapel.

Turn left at the Tabernacle Chapel and walk along an unnamed lane which gives good views of St Ilfyt's Church and the 13th century gatehouse. Continue along the unnamed lane for about 150 yards to a T junction, take the right fork and 25 yards ahead is the Town Hall.

(1) E Whittle "A Guide to Ancient and Historic Wales - Glamorgan and Gwent."
(1992) 73.

(2) *Ibid.*, 74.



LLANTWIT MAJOR C

Llanilltud Fawr / Llantwit Major

29

27

24

20

23

21

26

37

30

25

18

19

49

526

37

31

50

Bryn-tych

Depot

The Nook

Crosswinds

Pleasant View Farm

88m

86m

Spr.

Track

Morfa Farm

Whitemoors

Porthwell House

Sinks

Exmoor

Sinks

Nursery

Floodgate Bridge

Water Lane (11)

Caermead

ROMAN VILLA (site of)

Caermead

Path

Lougher Moor

Floodgate

Drain

Little Frampton

Frampton

Frampton Court Farm

Bara Slake

Pleasnewydd Farm

Groeswen Farm

Car Park

Playing

Playing Field

Headre Alcan

Channel View

Purton Farm

Opney Brook

Great House

The Meadows

Ilansion

Schools

Amis Sla

Allo Gddas

West-end Town

Tir Abad

Djmlands

Lodge

Windmill (disused)

Flender Farm

Rugby Football Ground