

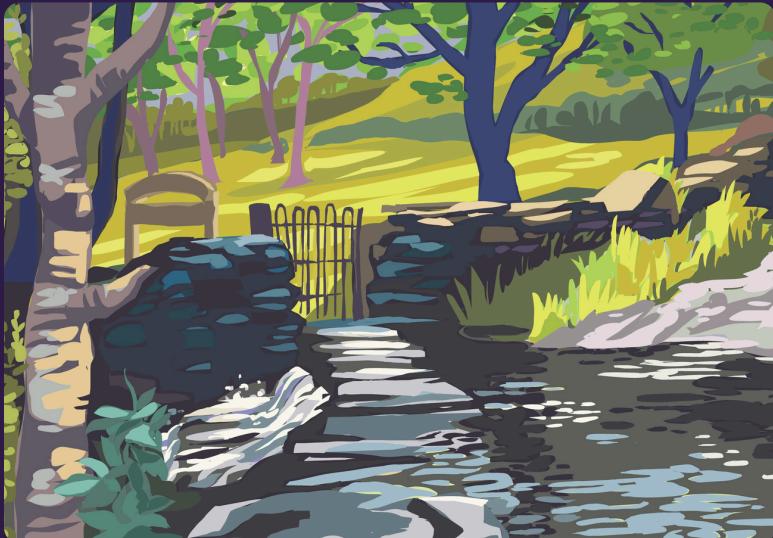
# Discover the Dee Valley

Walks to explore the  
beauty, history and wildlife  
of the Dee Valley.



**Bryniau Clwyd a  
Dyffryn Dyfrdwy  
Tirwedd  
Cenedlaethol**

**Clwydian Range  
and Dee Valley  
National  
Landscape**



# Explore the Dee Valley

from the Vale of Edeyrnion beneath the crags of the Berwyn Mountains, to a new nature reserve below the Eglwyseg Limestone Escarpment.

Discover hidden gems along the four great highways of the Dee Valley; the river, canal, railway and historic coach road. From oak woodlands to historic features, along both accessible and more challenging terrain, there is something for everyone.



This leaflet has been designed to help you see some of the fascinating history and wildlife of the Dee Valley.

Although every effort has been made to make this booklet as accurate as possible, neither the authors nor publishers accept any responsibility for resulting consequence of errors.

For more information search:  
Clwydian Range and Dee Valley National Landscape

# Explore by Rail

## Walks from the stations

Why not take the train and enjoy a variety of picturesque walks from any of the five railway stations along the Llangollen Heritage Railway Line?

CORWEN

CARROG

GLYNDYFRDWY

BERWYN

LLANGOLLEN

**Llangollen Railway was started in 1975 by a group of enthusiasts following the closure of the main line to passenger traffic in 1965 and to goods in 1968.**

Today, Llangollen Railway is the only standard gauge heritage railway in North Wales. From mid February until mid November you can enjoy a relaxing 10 mile journey by steam, heritage diesel loco or heritage railcar, travelling through some of the most beautiful scenery in Wales.

“Few rides excel the ride from Llangollen to Corwen”

**John Broster, 1802**



# Pen y Pigyn

**Pen y Pigyn is the steep-sided hill that Corwen nestles beneath. There are footpaths leading to it behind the Workhouse building and behind the church.**



The paths wind up through the oak and birch woodland past the Gorsedd stone circle. You can follow the 1/4 mile Dagger Trail loop and take advantage of the scenic picnic sites. There is a viewpoint at the top where legend says Welsh prince Owain Glyndwr, in a fit of rage, hurled his dagger from the hillside with such force that it left its outline in a rock below. The stone, with its strange dagger mark, can still be seen today serving as a lintel above the reconstructed south doorway of St. Mael and St. Sulien's Church.

Follow the main path up the steps until you reach the monument. Built in 1863 (and later restored) it commemorates the marriage of the then Prince of Wales, later Edward VII to Alexandra of Denmark.

## 1919 Corwen Peace Eisteddfod

The Gorsedd stone circle was constructed in 1919 for the opening ceremony of the National Eisteddfod. It was a very special occasion, being the first Eisteddfod following the Great War. Imagine the hustle and bustle in the town with thousands of visitors. A new pavilion and four railway platforms were built for the occasion.





## Good to know:

Nearest Railway station: Corwen

Parking: Corwen town centre

Length: 2 miles

Time: 1 – 2 hours

OS Map: 255 Llangollen & Berwyn

Terrain: Some steep and uneven sections



**Enjoy the  
riverside at**

# **Gro Isa**

**Gro Isa is a grassland area which provides a haven for birds, butterflies and small mammals.**



The name refers to the gravel river bed, which is present on this section of the River Dee. The banks of the river are edged with willow and reeds and the shallow waters are an excellent place for river dipping. Please keep away from the fast, deep water though, and ensure all animals are returned to their habitats.

Heading onto Green Lane from the main car park next to the station, walk a short way down this road and then turn left along a track by the playground. Look out on your right for the pedestrian gate and footpath to Gro Isa.

Part of the boundary of Gro Isa is made up of large upright slate slabs – a method peculiar to the Corwen area and in particular the Rhug Estate.

The River Dee is renowned for salmon, brown trout and lamprey. It is also said to be one of the best rivers in Britain for grayling which are a sure sign of clean water.

The water's edge provides a home for otter and water vole, and birds such as dipper, heron and goosander are commonly seen.





Artist JMW Turner visited Corwen during one of many visits to the Dee Valley. He sketched 'The River Dee at Corwen; Man Fishing and Cattle Watering' in 1808 and later in 1809, he painted 'The Trout Stream'. Both pieces feature the familiar arches of the Corwen bridge over the River Dee.



## Good to know:

Nearest Railway station: Corwen

Parking: Corwen town centre

Length: 1 mile

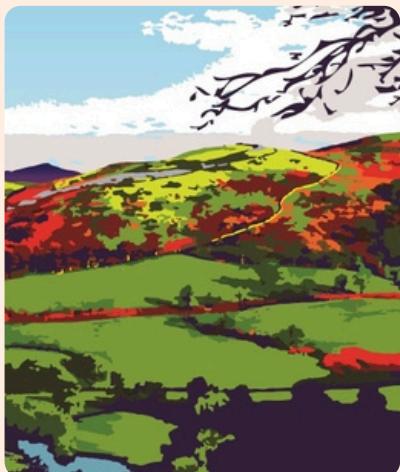
Time: 40 minutes

OS Map: 255 Llangollen & Berwyn

Terrain: Flat but uneven sections

# Caer Drewyn

**A walk up to Caer Drewyn hillfort provides a chance to explore this fascinating Iron Age site and offers fantastic views. Caer Drewyn is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. It is protected as being an important archaeological site in Wales.**

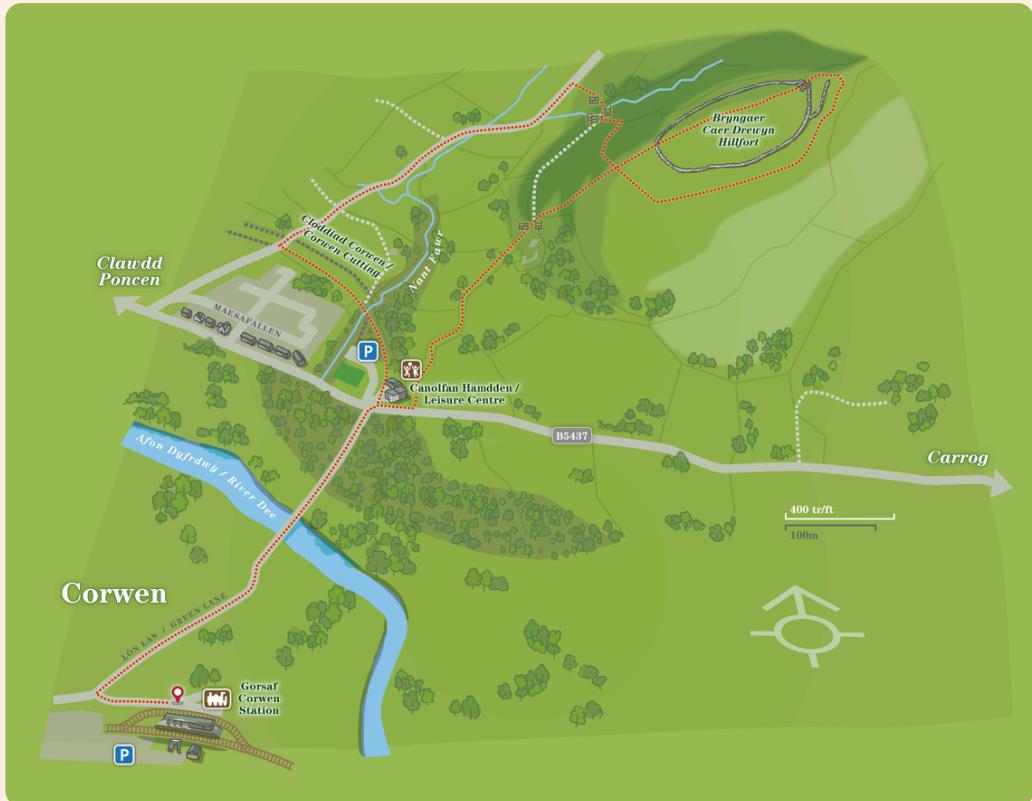


Follow the Hillfort symbol for a 2 mile circular walk, taking in Caer Drewyn and Corwen Cutting. The Corwen Cutting follows what was once the railway line between Corwen and Ruthin.



Caer Drewyn hillfort was built sometime between 600 BC and 43 AD, but unlike other hillforts in the area, it doesn't have earthen banks and ditches but a large dry stone wall. Inside the ramparts there are remains of the stone foundations of some of the round houses. Stories say a beautiful woman, the sweetheart of the giant, Drewyn, milked her cows here.

The site has never been excavated, leaving many questions about its history... Why are there mysterious circular 'holes' in some of the walls and where did the stones come from? There are no large quarries in the area and no sign of a ditch yet tonnes of stones have been used!



The stones are covered with very rare lichens which have developed over 2000 years on the rocky habitat of the walls. It is a good place to see yellowhammer birds and large numbers of ravens gather here in autumn. Their aerial acrobatics are a joy to watch.



## Good to know:

Nearest Railway station: Corwen

Parking: Leisure Centre off B5437

Length: 2 miles

Time: 1 – 2 hours

OS Map: 255 Llangollen & Berwyn

Terrain: Steep and uneven sections

# Corwen

## Cynwyd Railway Line and Llangar Church

**This old railway line once carried trains from Corwen to Barmouth, but now provides a lovely walk through woodlands and grasslands. The nearby River Dee is home to otters, kingfishers and sandpipers, with cormorant, goosander and heron being frequent visitors.**

Walk west along the A5 to the Cynwyd turning. Follow the North Berwyn Way or Brenig Way signs and please keep to the line of the path through the private gardens.



Half way between Corwen and Cynwyd, you pass the fascinating Llangar Church, now owned by Cadw, which is well worth a visit. According to documents of 1730, the original name of the church was Llan-Garw-Gwyn, Church of the White Deer. The story says that a white deer, disturbed from the site of the church, ran off and its path established the boundaries of the parish.

The earliest mention of the church is in 1291. It has been beautifully restored and includes amazing wall paintings from the 14th Century.



## Good to know:

Nearest Railway station: Corwen

Length: 3 - 5 miles

Time: 2 - 4 hours

OS Map: 255 Llangollen & Berwyn

Terrain: Flat with uneven sections

# Glyndyfrdwy

**Glyndyfrdwy lies in a beautiful spot in the Dee Valley, nestling between the heather clad Llantysilio Mountains and wild Berwyn range, either of which can be explored using the Dee Valley Way or North Berwyn Way.**



This short walk follows the impressive valley shaped by the Nant y Pandy River, climbing gently from Glyndyfrdwy through derelict slate workings to open moorland above.

Explore the old tramway where abandoned buildings and work areas blend with delightful wooded slopes and waterfalls, as nature reclaims its valley.

The trail takes you from the Heritage railway station in Glyndyfrdwy and up through 'the pandy' woods, hugging the stream that once provided all the power for the slate quarries – the remnants of which are to be found on this walk along with three stunning waterfalls and a cacophony of bird calls.

Each season has its unique charms. The best time for seeing an array of fungi is in the autumn and in the winter the waterfalls are loud and fierce. If you come in the spring and summer you're likely to hear a very special sound – the call of a Wood Warbler, one of over 30 species of birds that migrate and nest here each spring.

To discover more, follow the QR code to download the Glyndyfrdwy Nant Y Pandy Audio Trail.

Download the trail before starting on the walk as reception is limited.





## Good to know:

Nearest Railway station: Glyndyfrdwy

Length: 2.5 miles

Time: 1.5 - 2 hours

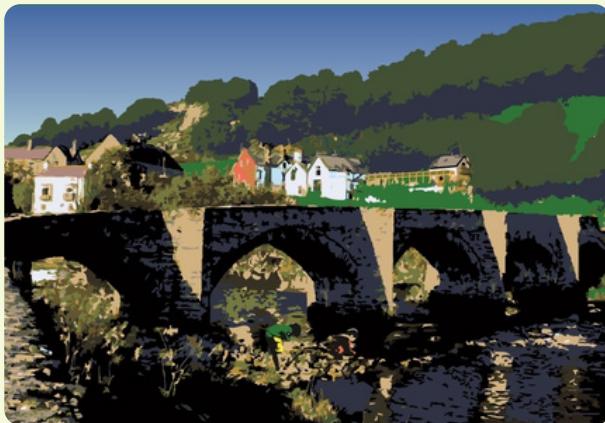
OS Map: 255 Llangollen & Berwyn

Terrain: Gentle slopes with uneven sections

# Carrog

**Carrog was originally known as Llansantffraid Glyn Dyfrdwy and was one of the homes of Owain Glyndŵr. His manor house was located near the 12th century motte near the A5. It was here that he proclaimed himself Prince of Wales and started his rebellion against English rule in 1400.**

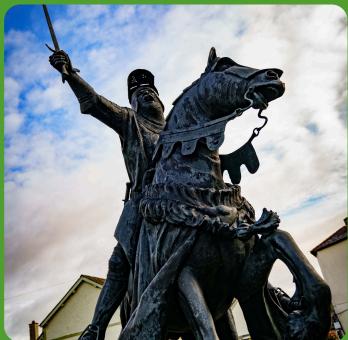
The arrival of the railway in 1865 had a huge effect on the village – the railway makers struggled with the length of the name and named the station after a local farm. Soon after, the village itself also became known as Carrog, and wealthy businessmen built imposing holiday homes here for their families.



## Owain Glyndwr Trail

Stroll around the village, can you spot where Owain Glyndwr's prison "Carchardy" used to be?

Visit Owain Glyndwr's Motte (access from the A5 on a permissive path, courtesy of Carrog Station Camp Site).





The river Dee runs gently under the Carrog bridge, built in 1661, and a riverside footpath provides an excellent spot for watching out for wildlife.

The Grouse Inn is on the other side of the River Dee is named after the black grouse, a rare bird that can be seen on the Llantysilio and Berwyn mountains on either side of the valley.



## Good to know:

Nearest Railway station: Carrog

Length: 1 mile

Time: 40 minutes

OS Map: 255 Llangollen & Berwyn

Terrain: Uneven grassland and pathways

# Berwyn

## and the Horseshoe Falls

**The picturesque railway station at Berwyn is located at a narrow point in the Dee Valley, where all of the the historic transport routes squeeze through together. The road and railway intertwine their bridges over river and canal and the historic Chain Bridge offers pedestrians the chance to marvel at the four great highways.**

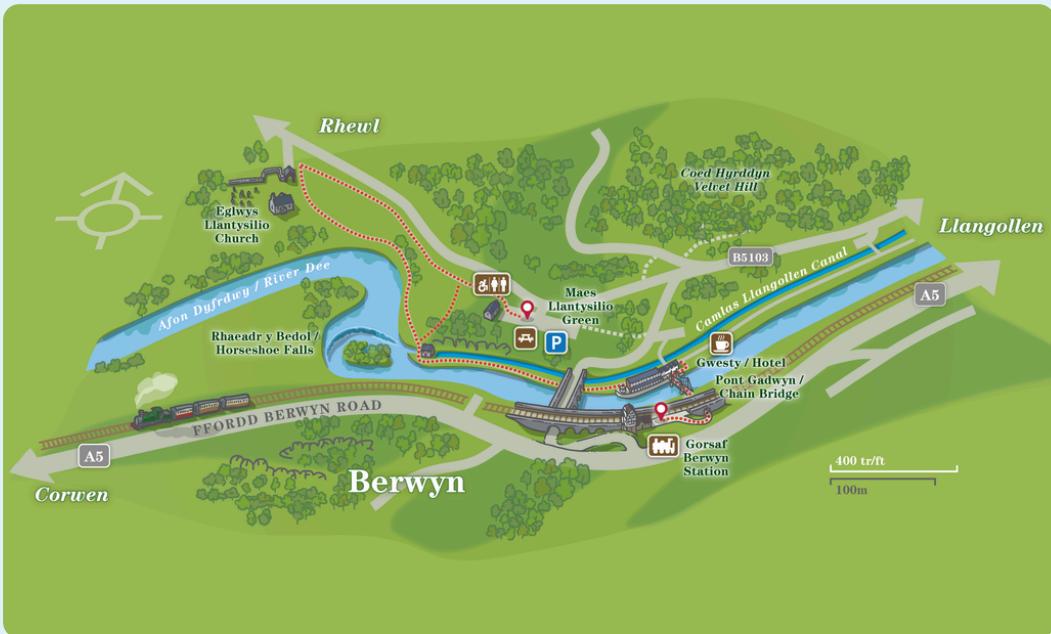
Across the river lies the Llangollen Canal, which has its very beginnings just a short walk to the west at the Horseshoe Falls.



The first 11 miles of the canal were declared a World Heritage Site in 2009 on account of the amazing feats of engineering, including the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, that were achieved by William Jessop and Thomas Telford.

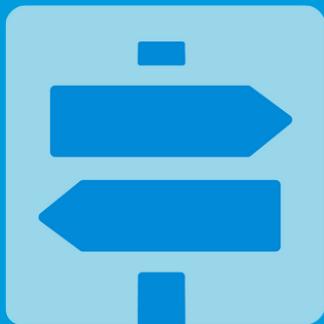


Just beyond the Horseshoe Falls is the lovely Llantysilio Church, with its captivating churchyard and fascinating windows. The picnic site at Llantysilio Green offers a fantastic view of the Horseshoe Falls against the backdrop of the distinctive Llantysilio mountains.



The Chainbridge was built by local coal merchant Exuperius Pickering, it is one of the first chain bridges in the world.

The bridge enabled Pickering to transport coal, lime and stone across the River Dee to Telford's new London to Holyhead road (A5) without having to pay the toll on the Llangollen bridge. His gravestone can be found at Llantysilio church yard.



## Good to know:

Nearest Railway station: Berwyn

Parking: Llantysilio Green

Length: 1 mile

Time: 1 hour

OS Map: 255 Llangollen & Berwyn

Terrain: Some steep and uneven sections

# Llangollen

## to Wenffrwd Nature Reserve

**Follow the former route of the Ruabon to Barmouth railway line in one direction and then amble alongside the canal on your return. Enjoy a range of habitats and picturesque views along this easy walk which includes the ever evolving Wenffrwd nature reserve which was established in 2021 on a former landfill site.**

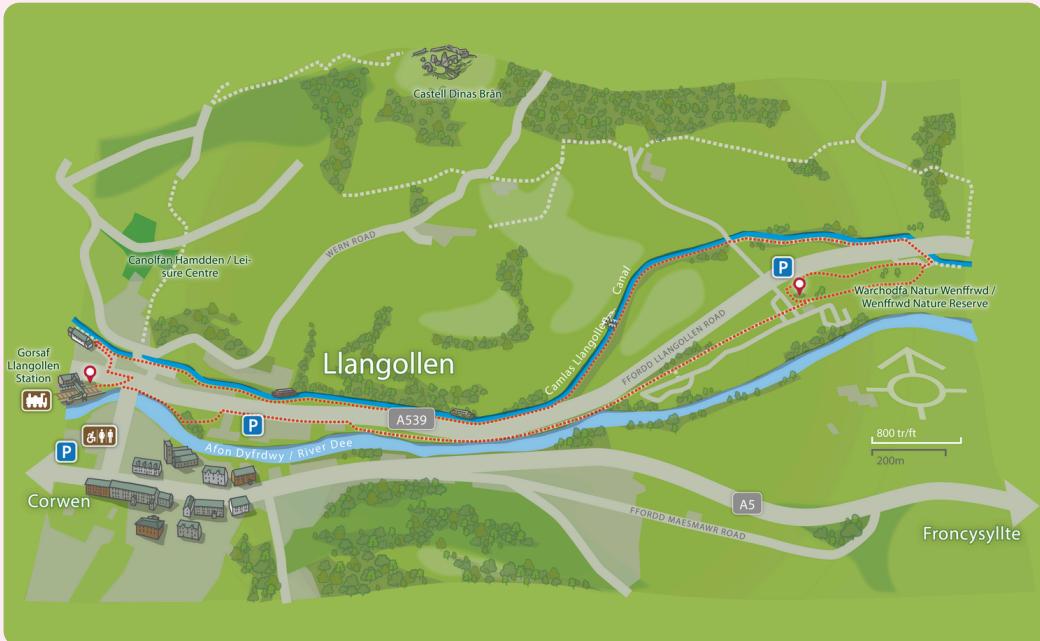
Along your journey, discover the charming town of Llangollen, with scenic views of the River Dee and the historic Llangollen Heritage Railway.



The land at Wenffrwd nature reserve is the result of several decades of tipping household, commercial and industrial waste from the Llangollen area. Up to 75,000 tonnes were dumped each year until it stopped receiving rubbish in the 1980s, the transfer station was available for the local population until 2008.



Nature has done an excellent job at reclaiming the site. Wildflower meadows provide food for pollinators and yellow meadow ants which make the anthills that you will see. The thick bramble offers safe areas for birds and mammals.



The beech and pine woodland was planted on an older section of landfill.

Many of the trees on site look damaged, but this can provide excellent roosting opportunities for bats and homes for solitary bees.

## Good to know:

Nearest Railway station: Llangollen

Parking: Llangollen town centre & Wenffrwd

Length: 3.5 miles (Wenffrwd loop is 0.5 miles)

Time: 2 - 3 hours

OS Map: 255 Llangollen & Berwyn

Terrain: Mostly flat and accessible with some short steep sections

