

Abergwili Village Walk

Basic circuit 2 miles/3.2 km

Walk to the Crychiau bridge and back, add ½ mile/0.8 km

Walk to Merlin's Hill, add 1¼ miles/2 km

Leave the Bishop's Park from the main entrance and cross the A40 at the roundabout. Turn left on to Castell Pigyn road. Walk on the right and then cross the road where the pavement begins. Follow the pavement as it makes a short loop above the road. Ignore the sharp left turn for the footbridge and follow the pavement down to re-join the road.

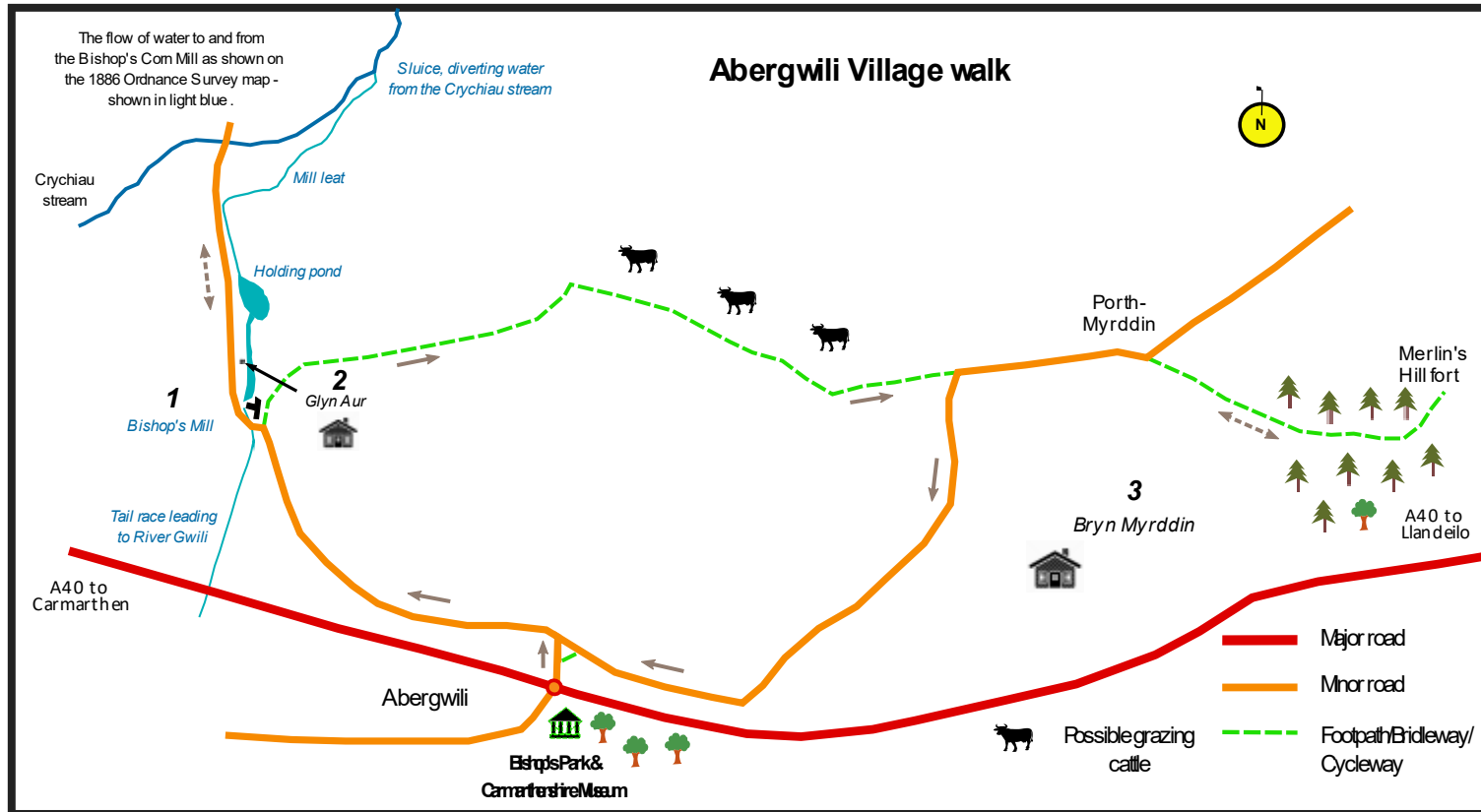
Just before a white house on the left, a wide gateway allows a view of what was the tail race from the Bishop's Mill, and now acts as a field drain.

You may like to walk up the road to the left of the Bishop's Mill and compare what you see on the ground today with the way it appears on the 1886 O.S. map. You will soon see, on the right, the house called Glyn Aur. Walk as far as the bridge over the Crychiau and then return to the Bishop's Mill and turn left around it, up the road with a sign for Cwm Farm.

Keep straight uphill on this road which becomes a lane with a grassy centre. On the brow of the hill, where the lane turns sharp left, go right into the field. You may need to open a farm gate or possibly duck under a strand of wire fence. Cross this field keeping tight to the hedge on your right and go through a big gap in the hedge into the next field. Continue beside the hedge to cross the next field. This field narrows almost to a point and, at its extremity, you will come to a rather nice stone stile. Cross this and then cross a third field, aiming to the left of the bungalow for a circular concrete drinking trough and a stile and gateway. If the stile is impassable, untie and then retie the twine securing the gate.

*If you wish to continue up to Merlin's Hill, turn left. Route instructions are in the description for **White Mill and Merlin's Hill walk**.*

Turn right on to the road and follow it downhill. Notice the pillared entrance to Bryn Myrddin on your left. Make use of the pavement for the last few hundred yards. At the bottom, take care crossing the A40 and follow the Museum signs back into the Bishop's Park.



1 The Bishop's Mill

The Bishop's Mill dates from the late 18th or early 19th century but a medieval corn mill may well have stood on the same site. The mill wheel was on the left end of the building, powered by water in the leat running from the Crychiau stream. It ceased operating in about 1950 and none of the machinery remains in place.

The mill is now a private house.

2 Glyn Aur

Until about 70 years ago you could have visited an amazing topiary garden here at the house called Glyn Aur. A Mr Davies created a range of Biblical scenes in his garden in the years up to World War Two, illustrating stories such as The Flight from Egypt and the animals marching into Noah's Ark. He was a keen photographer and, as well as opening the garden to the public, he sold postcards of his topiary scenes.

This postcard shows the Garden of Eden which includes Adam, Eve and the serpent.



3 Bryn Myrddin

The grey, rather austere mansion (which you can see from the Merlin's Hill walk) is Bryn Myrddin, built in 1848 by Thomas Morris on the site of an earlier house called Penybanc. The Morris family ran the Carmarthen Bank until it was taken over in 1871 by National Provincial Bank which is now part of NatWest. It is said that Thomas Morris's wife thought the original house name was unsuitable for a family of prominent bankers – hence the name change.

The elaborate grounds included a walled garden, terraces, ponds and a carriage drive.