

2000 years of history at a glance

Distance	6km
Time	3 hours

2000 years of history — a walk through Lanes and Lines in the Tywi Valley at Llangadog

The area around the medieval village of Llangadog (with the dedication to St. Cadog) provides a window on 2000 years of settlement and travel. This walk endeavours to introduce you to the hidden history of the area.

Themed Walks No. 5

2000 years of history —

a walk through Lanes and
Lines in the Tywi Valley at
Llangadog

Look out for

Clues in the landscape that reveal the valley's hidden history such as lanes, mounds, stands of Scots Pine and ancient field patterns.

Don't forget to

Follow the footpath marker signs. Also be aware that the narrow lane road sections will require you to walk with great care of traffic.

Be aware

There is limited car parking on Llangadog Common. There are a few steep hills to climb but generally the terrain is good.

Be prepared

We recommend that you are equipped with a map and compass with the skills to use them, as well as suitable footwear and clothing for the terrain, ground and weather conditions.



THE ROUTE

Less than a mile to the south of the village of Llangadog is the hamlet of Felindre Sawdde. Here is to be found 'the Common' which still retains ancient grazing rights for the remaining farms around its edges. Ample parking is to be found and this is a good point to begin the walking tour through the history of the area.

To the south can be seen the distinctive C12th Motte & Bailey castle – Castell Meurig.

Begin the walk by taking the second right lane after crossing the bridge from the Llangadog side. Keep bearing to the left and walk around this little hamlet to rejoin the main route to Bethlehem and turn right.

In 1383 Felindre Sawdde was awarded a Fair, a very prestigious accolade. The Fair was known as the 'Fair of Penybont ar Sawthey' and is likely to have been held in the long field on the right of the road – used for many years as the course for Llangadog trotting races.

Once past the farm, take the left fork in the road and follow the sunken lane to Cefn Coed.

Note the tall stands of Scots pine at the fork in the road. These trees mark fields into which Drovers could turn their cattle for the night. The drovers would receive accommodation and food at the farm. These Scots pines marked the end of a long section of the drovers road from the Swansea valley into the Tywi valley.

Follow the path through this wooded common and past Cefn Coed Cottage and take the right turn and continue to the Crossroads.

On the left can be seen a small mound which is thought to be the remains of a 'Welsh' watch tower guarding against Norman incursion in to the Dyffryn Ceidrych. The very flat field on the left of this lane was the site of a large municipal refuse dump until the late 1980s. It is often assumed that the rusty brown water to be seen in culverts along this lane is pollution from the tip but in fact it is manganese seeping from the rock below. Several small quarries operated close-by and looking over the site of the old tip one can see a small brick building. This was the 'magazine' or store for the blasting dynamite.

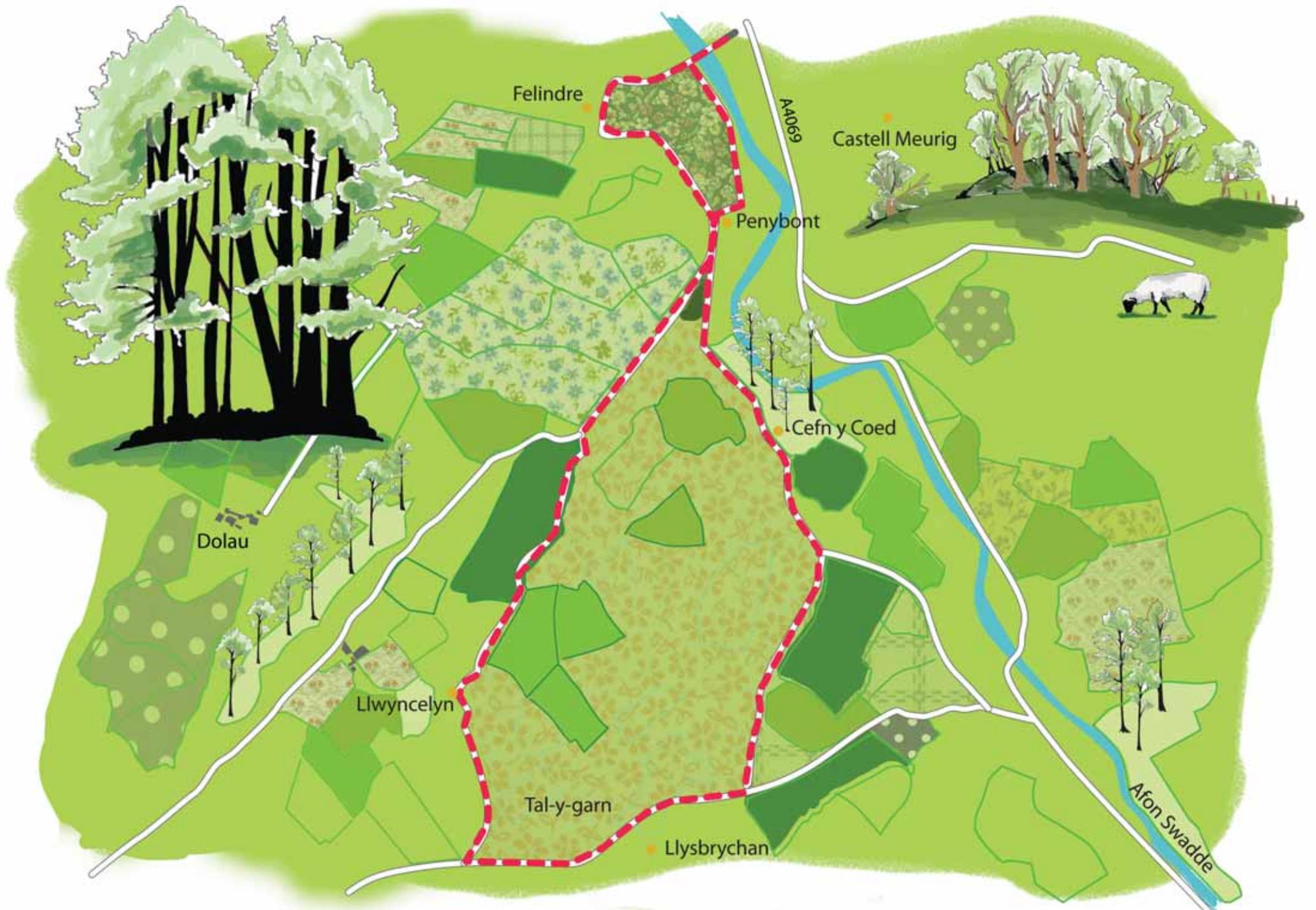
At the Crossroads the Drovers road is straight ahead, but turn to the right, and rest at the gateway on your left.

The farm and the fields in front of the gate are the site of a Roman farmstead of high status. In the 1960s an area of floor mosaic was uncovered. The farm is called Llys Brychan (Llys meaning 'Court' and Brychan is the name of the King of Brycheiniog).

Continue along the road until the next right turn, marked by large Conifer trees in the garden of Pant Meredydd. This is the C19th Llangadog to Brynamman Toll Road.

Looking to the left, on the skyline, can be seen the remains of the great hillfort of the Silures, the Iron-Age occupiers of this area. Garn Goch is the largest such fort in the area and is well worth a visit.

The gentle climb to Llwyn Celyn, can be made magical by resting and turning to take in the views to the south. Descend to the junction of the Llangadog to Bethlehem road and turn right. At Pen y Bont farm, turn to the right, continue through the farm yard and onto the Common. Follow the river back to the bridge and return to the start.



Taking further steps in the Tywi Valley

'2000 years of History' is one of a series of 6 themed walks that have been created to encourage access to the Tywi Valley. The walks have been made possible thanks to local farmers and landowners and the Tywi Afon yr Oesoedd Project that is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Rural Development Plan.

For further information on any of the Tywi Afon yr Oesoedd themed walks please visit

www.tywiariverrthroughtime.org.uk



Cronfa Amaethyddol Ewrop ar gyfer Datblygu
Gwledig: Ewrop yn Buddsoddi
mewn Ardaloedd Gwledig
The European Agricultural Fund for
Rural Development: Europe Investing in
Rural Areas



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government



Ymddiriedolaeth
National Trust

LOTTERY FUNDED
ARIENNIR GAN Y LOTERI