

Themed Walks No. 6

Tywi Rocks

A glimpse into the incredible geology of the Tywi Valley

Tywi Rocks walk at a glance

Distance	6km
Time	2 hours

Tywi Rocks

The geology of the Tywi valley and the Sawdde gorge are immensely important. On this short walk, geology can be tracked in the stone of the buildings and the dry stone walls.

Look out for

Incredible views and local rocks used for buildings and walls.

Don't forget to

Follow the path marker signs and keep to field edges to avoid damaging crops or disturbing livestock.

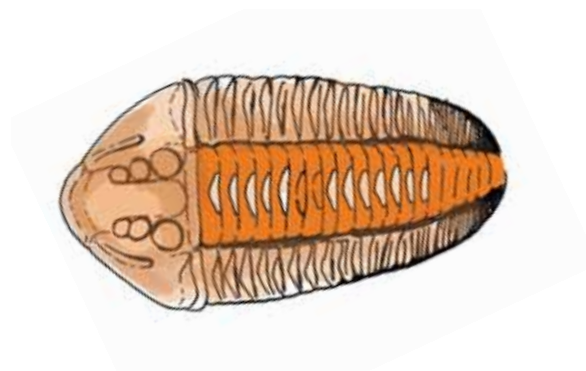
Be aware

There is very limited parking at the beginning of the walk. Please ensure that you leave sufficient room for cars to pass. It is also possible to park near the Llangadog roundabout and walk up the road to the beginning of the footpath.

The path is very steep in parts.

Be prepared

We recommend that you are equipped with a map and know how to use one. Please ensure that you are suitably dressed and prepared for all weather conditions. Suitable boots or other footwear is essential as the ground is wet in places.



TYWI AFON YR OESOEDD



TYWI A RIVER THROUGH TIME

THE ROUTE

The walk begins at SN687293, and follows the Felindre Forestry Path and the Abermarlais Estate.

The small octagonal house is an old Toll House on the ancient road from Llandovery to Llandeilo. The great estate of Abermarlais was the home of Lord Rhys and continued to be an important seat of Noblemen throughout the Medieval and later centuries.

Following the footpath signs, walk northwest across the fields towards the woodland. You will need to cross a small stream and two stiles before you enter the wooded area. Follow the footpath up the steep hill (Allt y Parc – wooded slope of the Park) turn left at the top and then take the track to your right before you reach the forestry turning circle.

The pathway ends in a stile which crosses into the fields and open parkland of the hilltop. Turn right and walk with the wall on your right, go through the opening and then walk with the wall on your left.

This open parkland was the Deer Park of the Abermarlais estate. Walking quietly it is still possible to spy Fallow deer in the woodland edges. The view to the south over the Tywi valley and across towards the sombre peaks of the Carmarthen Fans is well worth stopping for. The small high rocky outcrops are good vantage points and mark the sites of early settlements. Here too can be seen the small quarries from which the stone for the wall was obtained. Note the brittle and small nature of the rock which is Silurian shale.

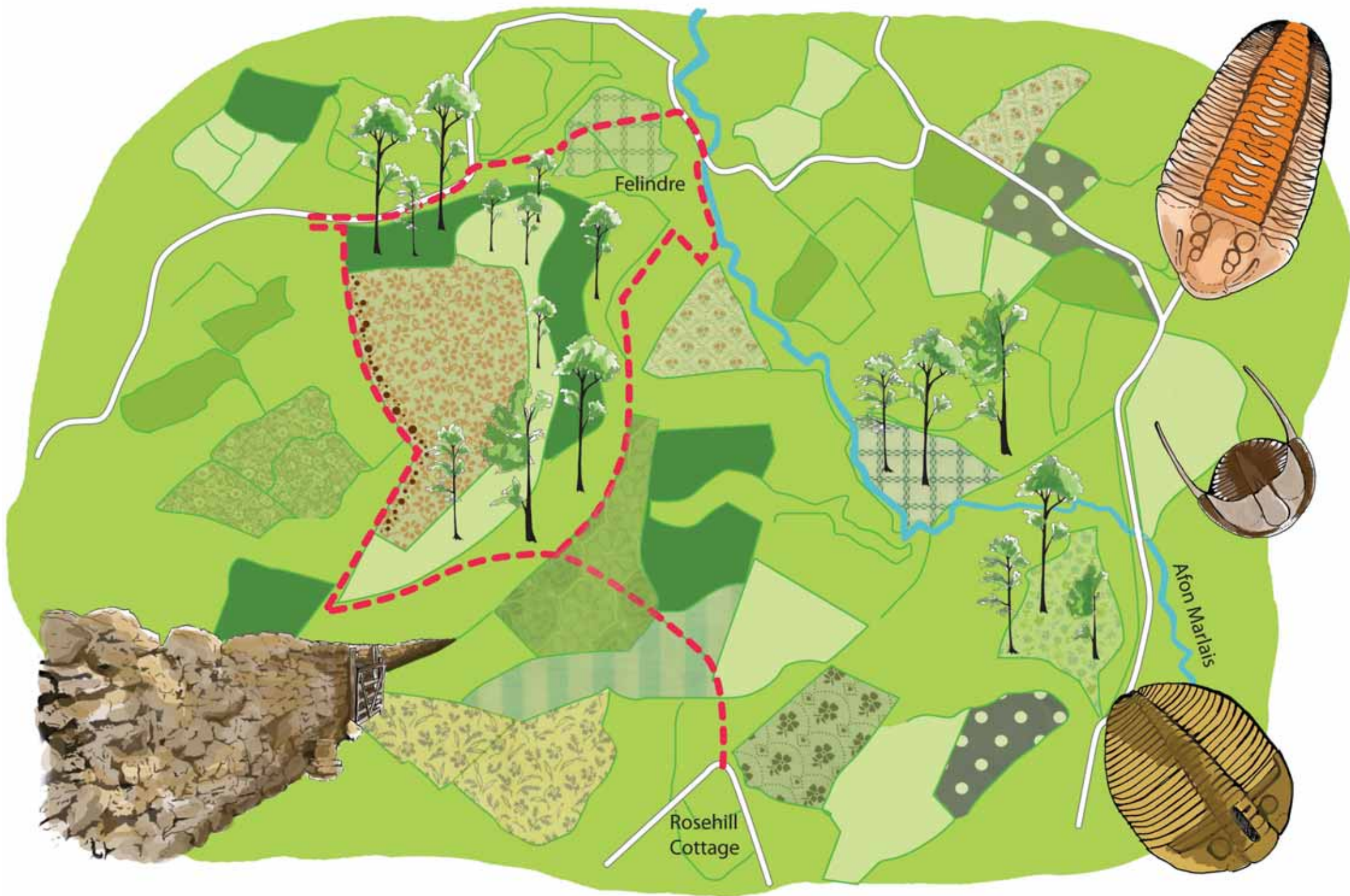
On a clear day the slopes of the Fans can be seen to be dipping to the south and scars on the faces of the peaks mark the gouging of the great glaciers. The gorge of the Sawdde is clearly visible beyond the common and the high hill of Trichrug shows the early C19th enclosures marked by arrow straight dry stone walls. To the south west can be seen Garn Goch and the grey sombre stone ramparts of the Ordovician sandstones.

The river Sawdde which rushes from the high peaks of the Carmarthen Fan and the mystical lake of Llyn y Fan Fach, exposes the old red sandstones and, as it swirls through the Sawdde Gorge (a Site of Special Scientific Interest because of its geological revelations) it cuts through the Llandeilo Flags. The Llandeilo Flags, which are lime-rich sandstones and limestones, are abound with fossils. Many trilobite species are to be found as fossils in the Llandeilo Limestones.

The river boulders of the Old Red Sandstone deposits were extensively used for the farm and house buildings. They were broken by heating in a fire and then cracking in half, to reveal a flat surface which faces the walls of buildings.

Near the end of the stone wall is a stile that takes you over the wall. Follow the woodland boundary down a very steep hill. Follow the fence line and cross the stile onto the road.

Turn right and walk the lane, turning right at the junction and on into the hamlet of Felindre. Leave the road by walking straight ahead and follow the marked footpath. Follow the stream until you reach Lôn y Coed (Woodland Trust woods). Follow the path taking a right branch towards the stile. Walk with the forestry to your right and open fields to your left until you return to the stile between the woodland and field.



Taking further steps in the Tywi Valley

The Tywi Rocks walk 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.tywiariverthroughtime.org.uk



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