



Summary

A walk from Little Mill through the country lanes, footpaths and woods in and around the village of Glascoed

Distance: 2 1/2 miles

Time: 2 hours

Maps: OS Map 152 Newport & Pontypool

Start at: Half-way House pub car park in Little Mill. Grid ref 325030

Terrain: Woodland and fields and lanes

Follow the Country Code

Follow the country code

Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work

Guard against all risk of fire

Fasten all gates

Keep your dogs under close control

Keep to public paths across farmland

Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls

Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone

Help to keep all water clean

Protect wildlife, plants and trees

Take special care on country roads

Make no unnecessary noise



Any comments about this walk and leaflet would very much be appreciated by the Llanbadoc Community Council

www.llanbadoc.org

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Second in a series of five circular walks around the ward of Llanbadoc. The walks incorporate Llanbadoc, Little Mill, Glascoed and Monkswood.

These leaflets are produced by the Llanbadoc Community Council.

Little Mill

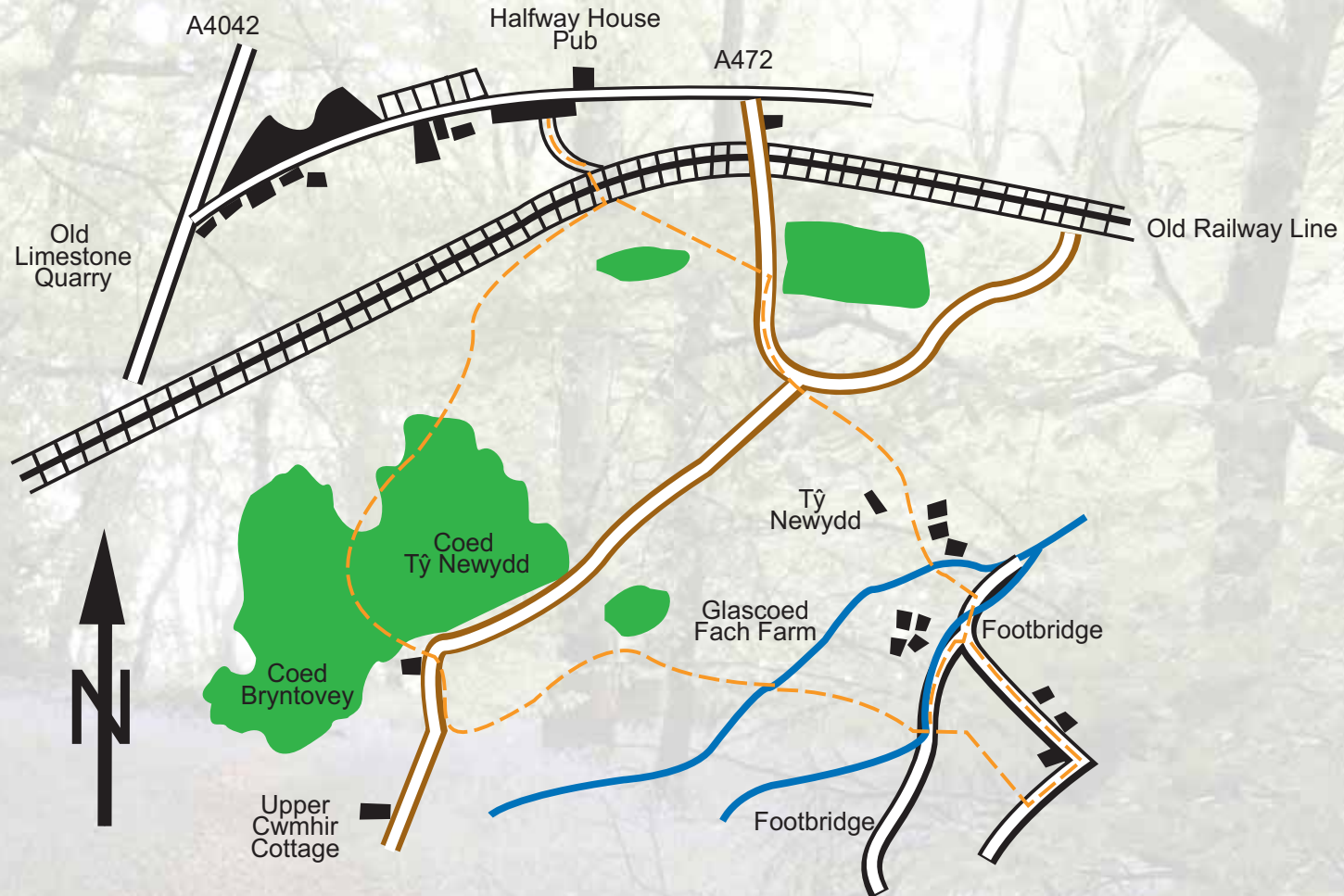
Use the Half-Way House pub car park in Little Mill as a base for this walk. From the pub car park cross the main road and follow the lane going over Berthin Brook.

The stile on your right takes you across the field to The Coleford, Monmouth, Usk, Pontypool Railway line (CMUPR), known affectionately as the “little railway with the long name”. The first sod for the track was cut by Mrs. Clark, wife of the Usk publisher and writer, James Henry Clark, on 11th April 1854 by the Rhadyr Farm, now Usk Agricultural College. The first four miles of line from Little Mill to Usk were opened on 2nd June 1856 when processions, bands and banners marched down Bridge Street, followed by “a coracle race on the Usk, donkey and mule races, climbing a slippery pole and chasing a pig with a greased tail”. Services to Monmouth started the following October. The line was closed in 1955 and the track beyond Usk dismantled three years later.

After crossing the line, turn immediately right through the gate and head towards the corner of Coed Tŷ Newydd. Walk along the edge of the wood to the path leading through Coed Bryntovey. If you pause a while at this stile you can see Little Mill nestling in the valley bottom.

Looking from Little Mill towards Goytre, the grey stone buildings of the old Monmouthshire Reformatory can be seen, now converted into comfortable cottages known as Tŷ Draw. The Reformatory was first proposed at Goytre in 1856, but the project was successfully opposed by Sir Benjamin Hall of nearby Llanover (who gave his name to Big Ben in London). The Monmouthshire Reformatory opened for twenty boys at Little Mill in 1859 and continued until 1922. From this vantage point on the far horizon is the Skirrid Fawr and in the middle distance is the Sugar Loaf to the west of Abergavenny.

Follow the path through the wood for about 100 yards. Look carefully for a track off to your left which descends before rising up a bank. Follow this path to the very top of the hill ignoring small tracks off to the left or right.



Turn right at the top and follow the wide path down until it joins another wide track near to a finger post. Turn right and follow this track until it brings you to the tarmac road at Upper Cwmhir Cottage. Turn left down the track by the side of the cottage, and passing Lower Cwmhir Cottage to your left, continue down the track until you reach a stile into a field. Go over the stile and turn left following the edge of the field to reach another stile. Head diagonally down to your right to a stile by a gateway, and onto a large bridge across a stream. Cross over and immediately go over another stile by a gate and follow the hedge on your right with Glascoed-Fach Farm to your left. Go over a stile, cross the track and over another stile into the next field. Over the next brow keep the hedge on your right to reach a stream. Follow the stream, cross the bridge over the brook and go through

the copse to the tarmac road. Turn left, walk 40 yards along the road and then turn right just before the gate, to follow a track. Ford the stream and continue up the track. Turn left over a lawn in front of a garden wall to reach the next stile which takes you into the wood. At the bottom of the slope turn left, go over the stile and cross the stream. Head for the stile to the left of the red brick barn but deviate slightly to your right to find the bridge over the stream in the field. The waymarked route brings you onto the farm drive. The route follows the farm drive until you reach the Larch wood on your right. To the left is the stile and gate and the waymarked route takes you once more over the railway and back to the Half-Way House pub at Little Mill.