

the 20th centuries it was known as the Carpenter's Arms. There has long been a tavern on this site, very possibly since the 13th century, but the present building dates from the first half of the 19th century. The first mention of it is in a mortgage document of 1734, which refers to "the Taverne House enjoying to the Church Yard Wall of Langattock Lingoed Church ... in the Tenure and Occupation of Phillip Kinvin as Tenant".

The pub garden, on the other side of the road, includes a small waterfall and pond - often dried out in the summer. If you keep left of the pub car park, walking behind its row of outbuildings, you will cross over a quite deep ravine. Originally surrounded by woodland and before the stream was culverted and the road built across it, this must have been a fairly impressive spot that may well have had pre-Christian religious significance. That would make the nearby site a natural to be taken over by evangelising Christian monks.

Beyond the footbridge over the ravine, turn left through a gate and into the area that has been recently cleared and planted. This, and the continuation at the lower end of the churchyard, is being developed as wildlife habitat. At the far end is a gate that leads you back to the start of the trail. (If the wildlife area proves to be a little too wild, it is possible to continue straight ahead from the footbridge, through another gate into the churchyard.)

We assume that you have previously paid a more leisurely visit to the church, but it is worth going into again for another look at some of its features that are directly connected with the trail. If you turn left at the door, just before the entry to the tower is a slab memorial for the "Taverne House" tenant, Philip Kenvin, who died in 1768, and his wife Ann, who died in 1783. In the tower itself is the bier.

At the other end of the church, to the right of the altar, is a stone slab with effigies of a man and woman in Tudor dress. Unfortunately, we don't know for sure who this couple are. Thomas Morris, who was mentioned in connection with Old Court, asked in his will (1640) to be buried in the church, so it could be him and his wife Margaret. However the same request was made in 1658 by Edward Morgan of Great House, which is some way to the east of the village centre (the pew to the left has his initials). Finally, on the south wall of the nave is a memorial to John Watkins of the Cwm, who died in 1818. Near the altar is the memorial to James Davies who built the school.

VILLAGE ALIVE TRUST

We are a community based building preservation trust, run by volunteers. We aim to help conserve important vernacular buildings in rural Monmouthshire. We have already succeeded in restoring the two Listed Well Houses (featured in the Cross Ash Trail) and an 18th century Cider House (see web site for details of Open Days). The Trust also has a programme of recording memories for a local history archive and we run events to attract people to this beautiful area. We aim to support the local economy by providing some public access to interesting sites and publicising the area through our web site.

If you would like to know more, or to become involved with the work of the Trust, please contact us at our Registered office (address below) or visit the web site: www.villagealivetrust.org.uk

Whilst every effort is made to ensure accuracy, the Trust cannot accept any liability whatsoever for any loss or damage arising in any way from this publication. Nor can they be held liable for any loss, injury or damage sustained by anyone visiting or walking the trail.

COUNTRYSIDE CODE

Please respect property and livestock when walking footpaths. Re-close gates and dispose of rubbish appropriately.

Take particular care to avoid traffic. Thank you.

The Village Alive Trust is a company limited by guarantee registered in Wales No. 5148543. Charity Commission No. 1107216. Registered Office: Yew Tree Farm, Llangattock Lingoed, Monmouthshire, Wales NP7 8NS

Member of Association of Preservation Trusts.

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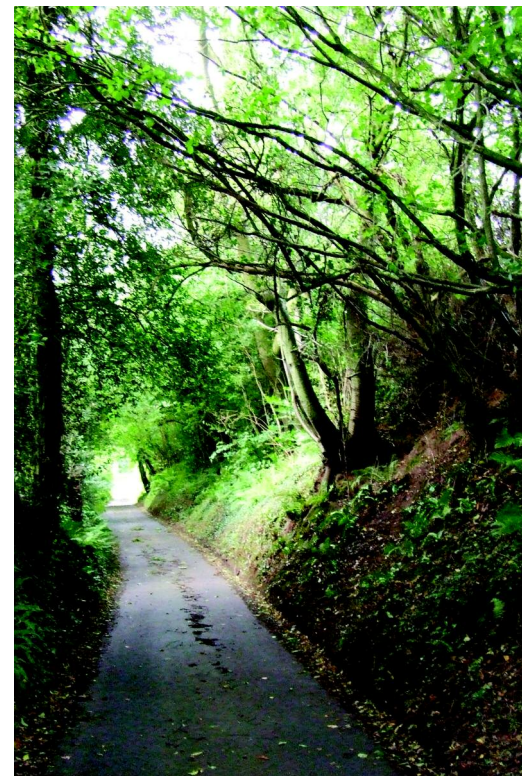
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Village trails

No.2



LLANGATTOCK LINGOED TRAIL

A circular walk of just over 2km, starting in the churchyard and passing the central historic houses.
Allow about 1 hour

The Village Alive Trust
Ymddiriedolaeth y Pentre Byw



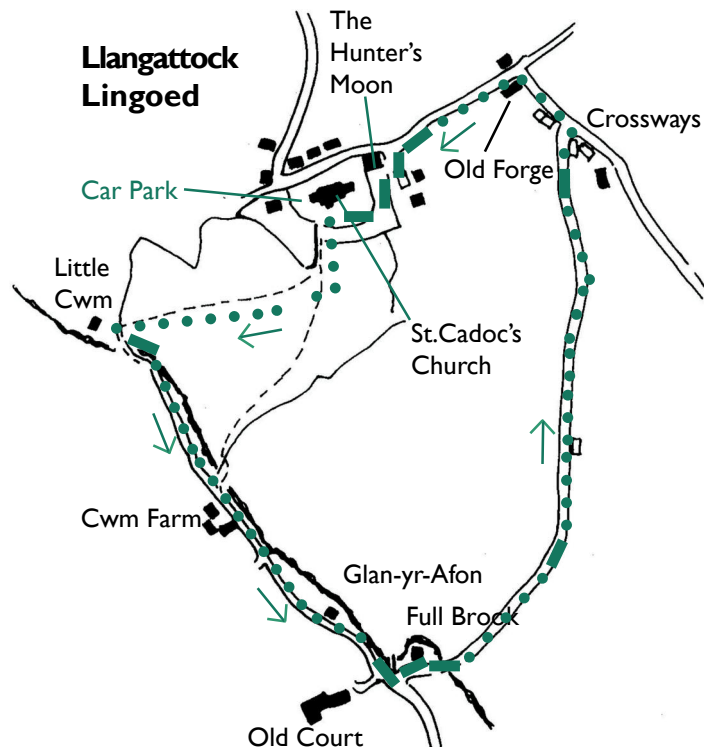
Leave the churchyard by its southern gate, following the Offa's Dyke footpath. Rather than taking the clear path straight down from the stile, go across the field (Church Meadow) diagonally to a stile at its bottom right-hand corner. Over the stile, descend the stone steps, with the remains of a cider mill to your left. Such mills were a common feature of local farms, but if this cottage, Little Cwm, was once a small farm, by 1841 there was no land attached to it and it was divided into two cottages.

Turn left here, follow the stone ledge alongside the stream (Full Brook) and cross it by the footbridge. The lane leads in a few hundred yards to Cwm Farm - at times specially distinguished as Great Cwm - on your right. The Cwm farmhouse was built in 1749 by William Watkins as a model farm. It had extensive orchards; most of these are now gone, but there are some very old pear trees in a field just opposite. The adjacent Cider House, which can be seen from the farmyard gate, has a date stone 1754. It has been restored by the Village Alive Trust and inside are a cider mill (very much like the one seen earlier) and a cider press with a rare wooden screw. There are several Open Days throughout the year when these can be viewed. Under the steps at the end of the barn is a stone dog kennel, which seems to have been a relatively common feature in this area.

Continuing along the lane you pass on your right what was once a major track leading to the ridge and from there to Abergavenny. It is now choked with trees and vegetation. Passing a cottage (Glan-yr-Afon) on the left, a little further on, you will notice stone steps on your right leading up to a garden wall. From here there is a good view of Old Court. (Please don't go into the grounds.)



Old Court - once simply Court - takes its name from the fact that it was where the manorial court was held up to the early nineteenth century (although it was not actually part of the lands of the lord of the manor, the marquess of Abergavenny). The building dates from about 1500 and was originally built as a medieval hall, of which a stone window still survives. A stone building at this date was a clear sign of wealth and high status.



Ordnance Survey "Pathfinder" maps 1063 and 1086 cover this area

The house was extended and remodelled in the 17th century, again to a superior standard, but it isn't known who carried out this work. One candidate is Thomas Morris, who was Rector of St Cadoc's from 1602 to 1649. He was clearly a man of considerable wealth, who at one time owned a substantial proportion of the parish. In 1664 it was bought by Sir Thomas Morgan, baronet, Llangattock Lingoed's most famous resident and the only one to have an entry in the Dictionary of National Biography. In fact, it is fairly certain that he was born here, in 1604, because the later deed of sale has on it a note from Sir Thomas's son saying that the property had once belonged to his grandfather, Lewis Morgan. This Lewis is the other possible candidate for the remodelling.

The young Thomas Morgan, however, had left at age 16 to seek fame and fortune as a soldier, which he did with some success. After service in several European armies, he joined the Parliament forces in the Civil War in 1642 and quickly rose from captain to colonel. As commander of Parliamentary forces in Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and

Monmouthshire, he led a number of sieges in the area, including that of Raglan castle. Since he had larger estates elsewhere, Sir Thomas probably didn't actually spend much time at Old Court. Certainly his descendants did not and the farm was let to tenants, one family of which, the Lloyds, bought it in 1768. Although not gentry, they were on the top rung of the local status ladder.



Old Forge, Llangattock Lingoed

Near the crossroads by Old Court, note the stone bridge over the Full Brook. It has a date stone of 1886 and is of very superior construction for what seems to be simply access to the field. At the crossroads, keep left, past a cottage (Fullbrook) and over a bridge, and start up the hill. There are old residents who can remember the church bier, with body, being carried up this lane, so as you go, spare a thought for those doing that job. Fortunately, it is well shaded by trees and at the right time of year you will see snowdrops or autumn crocus in the woods to the right or the Early Purple Orchid. About half-way up you can just make out on the right the ruins of an old cottage - variously known as Wood, Woodside or Woodhouse Cottage.

At the top of the hill, by the road junction, is a group of old, disused farm buildings, Crossways; the one on the right was once the post office, that on the left, as you turn left at the junction, is completely ruined. A short way on, at the next junction, where you again turn left, is Old Forge. This, too, was falling into disrepair, but fortunately has been sensitively restored. It is probably a little older than Old Court and was originally in the form of a medieval hall. The forge is a later, probably 17th century, addition. As you now follow the lane down the dip, you see the Hunter's Moon pub ahead of you. In the 19th and first half of