



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

## **WALK 5 - AROUND GLASCOED VILLAGE. APPROX. 2.5 HOURS - 4.5 MILES APPROX**

<b>Summary</b>	<b>Around Glascoed Village through country lanes, footpaths and woodland</b>
<b>Distance</b>	<b>4.4 miles</b>
<b>Time</b>	<b>2.5 hours</b>
<b>Maps</b>	<b>OS Map 152 Newport and Pontypool</b>
<b>Start at</b>	<b>Glascoed village opposite the Old School Ysgol Wen, School Road NP4 0TG approx. 50m from the crossroads</b>
<b>Terrain</b>	<b>Woodland, <del>and</del> fields and a stream. Can be wet and very uneven in places so waterproof sturdy footwear is recommended</b>

A parking space for cars should be available opposite Ysgol Wen. From this point proceed along the road in a southerly direction towards Llandegfedd Reservoir, passing Glascoed Lower Common on the left. About 100m beyond the entrance to Oak tree Bungalow you will see a waymark sign on the left which will take you through the woodland and eventually back onto the road near the metal gates leading to the Reservoir. Take the signpost to the right and follow the Llandegfedd Reservoir Trail towards Yew Tree Farm. The path leads to the right of the house to a wooden gate, then upwards through the field. At the top of the field turn left to a metal kissing gate. Follow the Llandegfedd Trail signs along a leafy path into Twyn y Cryn, an ancient woodland forming part of the Glascoed Commons.

*6 South Wales type socket axe heads, a sickle knife, sword blades and a spear head together with casting jets all of which formed a significant Bronze Age hoard were discovered somewhere on the Glascoed Commons. See Ch 5 'The Gwent County History' Vol 1 for details*

At the entrance to this woodland skirt to the left and follow a worn track which will take you along the top of the wood for about 300m after which walk down towards the bottom part which, on turning left, will lead you further through the wood for about 200m. Here you should bear to the right, cross a small stream and passing upwards over a wooden log and some boulders to emerge onto the parish road opposite two cottages.

Cross the road at this point and walk on for about 100m – keeping the cottages on your right but do not enter the woodland on your left Pantau Bushes. Cross over the stile and into a field. The path

will then take you along the bottom edge of a large field, to two sets of gates, take the right hand metal gate and keeping the hedge on your left hand side, the path will lead towards Cwmhir Lane. Proceed over a stile turn right and follow the road uphill towards Upper Cwmhir (Long Valley) where it merges into a leafy lane. Follow this track for about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile passing two pylons on your right. This track will take you downhill towards a white house on your right. Pass the white house walking straight ahead onto the track where you will pass the old woodland Coed Ty Newydd on your left which has now been felled.

Follow along the track, by now, cobbled, steep and narrow, through a metal gate, passing an open field to the left and views across Glascoed to the right.

*According to J A Bradneys s "A History of Monmouthshire" Ty Newydd (New House Farm) and old farmhouse, on your right hand side this farmhouse was part of the Hanbury Estate and had an old fireback enscribed 1681 WWB which was evidence of its antiquity.*

*This track is part of Rumble Street and if followed will lead out onto the A472 at Monkswood. Note vestiges of laid cobbles along the track which is evidence of its age and importance in times past. The name Rumble Street is said to refer to the rumble of carts carrying iron stone to a pre-industrial revolution iron smelting furnace which was located in a field just south of the A472. Evidence of the existence of the furnace can be seen in soil discolouration and slag deposits on this site. Small ironstone deposits and workings are to be found about the woodlands above Little Mill. Iron from these workings was possibly carted along this track to the furnace. The two other requisites for early iron making, limestone and charcoal were abundant in this locality. It has been suggested that the Tintern Monks of the Monastic Grange at Estavarney were the original iron-makers, however, after the dissolution Richard Hanbury had a forge and furnace at this site in 1572.*

At the bottom of the field, go through a metal farm gate onto a farm track. Go straight ahead along the track until you reach a bend to the right, directly ahead of you is a red metal gate, go through the gate downhill. The footpath narrows and you will reach a woodland (Hill Wood) to your right hand side. Dropping down sharply, the path is very uneven, you will see a defined path to the right through the woodlands. Follow the path, which will take you over a small stream, following uphill to the right. Climb steeply up the footpath until you reach a way marker, take the righthand path downwards into the woods. Continue along this path until you come to a junction way marker, to the right you will see a small bridge, but continue straight ahead. In a few metres you will come to a fork, take the left path upwards until you reach a pedestrian gate. Go through the gate into a private garden. Follow the path to the left up a slight incline to the house on the left hand side, take a sharp right downhill between two hedgerows. The path crosses through a stream, over stepping stones, and then left upwards along the path to the road, at Glascoed Fach Farm.

*This farm is of the seventeenth century and maybe earlier. In an indenture of 1829, the land around the farm has a distinct Welsh nomenclature which has been in Bradney thus:*

*Two orchards and fourteen pieces of land called Cae Dihaul (the sunless field), Cae Maen (the stoney field). Cae Canol (the middle field). Cae Bont Bren (the wooden bridge field), Cae Mawr (the great field), Gwain James (James meadow), Cae James Ucha (James upper field), Waen Felan (yellow meadow) Caer Odyn (the kiln field), Parc Newydd (the new park), Caer Gwartheg (cattle field), and Wain Hir (long meadow). Woodland was similarly names and included Drysiog Fach"(the little*

*thicket) and Coed Twyn Coch" (the red tump wood). If we look carefully at this landscape, we can identify many of these features today.*

Turn left along the lane for a short distance, until the sharp corner, where you will see ahead of you a highway sign "No through road for motor vehicles". Take this Bridleway, the surface of which is very uneven. Follow the bridleway upwards until you reach a wooden pedestrian gate. Go straight through the gate towards and passed Pergoed Farm house on your left hand side, onto Pergoed Lane. Climb steeply upwards along the lane until you reach the junction onto Glascoed Lane. Turn left along the lane until you reach your starting point at the Glascoed crossroads and Old School Ysgol Wen.