

St. Mark's Ysfa to St. Gwrthwl's, Llanwrthwl

(2.5 miles, mostly forest and farm tracks, fairly flat, muddy in places)

From the church gate turn right along the main road. At the edge of the forestry on the left is a footpath. Either take this path until it joins the main forestry track (where you turn left), or continue along the main road until you reach the main entrance into the Caerhyddwen forest on the left.

Follow the forest track down hill to a stream and up the other side. After another stream the track curves round to the left with a lagoon on the left and on the right some stone walling which is all that remains of Caerhyddwen Farm.

The track starts to climb again. Ignore three footpath signs on the left (marked with a footprint) until you come to the bridleway on the left marked with a hoofprint (the bridleway is approx 100 metres after the lagoon). Follow the bridleway through the forest into an area cleared of trees and then into some scrubby woodland.

Go through the way-marked gate in front of you. At this point the footpath disappears amongst the stunted trees, rocks and a small stream. Locate the remains of a field boundary on your right. This is no more than a low grass and stone ridge about a foot high. Keep this boundary on your right and follow it out of the wood and across a field of rough grass. There is a 'gateway' with two bits of wood in the shape of a cross by it. Ignore the faint track through the gateway leading down the hill and continue to follow the boundary until it reaches the corner of the hedge that juts into the field. There is a footpath way-marker on this corner.

Follow the hedge line until it becomes a green lane (more of a brown lane as this can be very muddy!) through a gate into Ashfield farmyard. Go through the farmyard and follow the track down to the main road (A470).

Cross the road and turn right. (If you want refreshments, turn left instead. There is a shop at the garage a quarter of a mile away and also a pub called the Vulcan Arms.)

Turn left into Llanwrthwl, crossing the bridge over the River Wye. Follow the road around to the left and the church is on the corner by a lane to the left signposted to Hodrid. The Hodrid road leads to Penuel Chapel (1852) after less than a quarter of a mile if you are interested in a short diversion.

