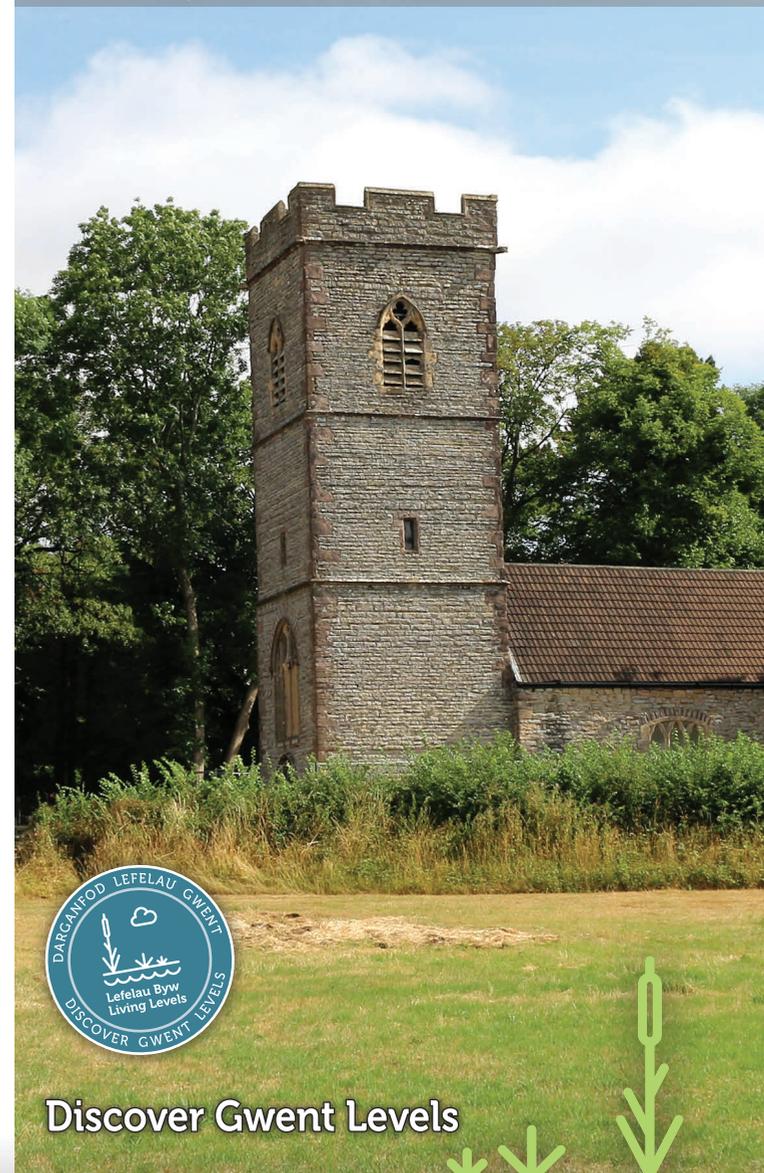


Levels Loops & Links Bishton & Llanwern Loop

Distance: 5 km | Time: 1½ hours



Discover Gwent Levels

Follow the Countryside Code

- Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors
- Park carefully so gateways and driveways are clear
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Follow paths but give way to others where it's narrow
- Leave no trace of your visit, take all your litter home
- Don't have BBQs or fires
- Keep your dog under effective control and on a lead around livestock.
- Pick up after your pet - dog mess can harm livestock
- Plan ahead, check what facilities are open, be prepared
- Follow advice and local signs

Look out for...



Peacock butterfly (Chris Harris)



Gatekeeper butterfly (Chris Harris)



Common blue butterfly (Chris Harris)



Ringlet butterfly (Chris Harris)



Marbled white butterfly (Chris Harris)



Buzzard (Chris Harris)

Walk Highlights

ST CADWALADR'S CHURCH, BISHTON

The church at Bishton largely dates from the 14th - 15th centuries, although there has been a church on this site for at least 1000 years. It is named for the Welsh King Cadwaladr (reigned AD 655 - 682), who was a supporter of the early Christian church.

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY

The railway line was designed and built by the celebrated engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel during the 1850s and was known as the South Wales Railway. In 1863 it became part of the Great Western Railway, linking London Paddington to Neyland in Pembrokeshire. It was originally constructed as a broad-gauge railway but was converted to standard gauge after 1873.

ST MARY'S CHURCH, LLANWERN

This small church dates from the 14th - 15th Centuries. It was largely used as a family chapel by the owners of Llanwern House, which once stood near the top of Llanwern Hill. David Alfred Thomas, Lord Rhondda, a former owner of the house and Minister of Food during the First World War, is buried in the churchyard. The house was demolished in the 1950s.

LLANWERN HILL

From the top of Llanwern Hill there are great views south across the Gwent Levels towards the Severn Estuary. To the east you can see the wooded top of Wilcrick Hill, site of an Iron Age hillfort, and, on a clear day, the twin towers of the Severn Road Bridge near Chepstow.

WILDLIFE

During the summer months, look out for a range of common butterflies along hedgerows, such as peacocks, gatekeepers, ringlets and common blues, feeding on bramble flowers. On Llanwern Hill look out for marbled whites, an attractive black and white butterfly, on the wing from June to September, which feeds on thistles and knapweeds.

At all times of year, look out for buzzards circling overhead. These large birds of prey have broad rounded wings and a short tail. They mate for life and will fiercely defend their territory.



About the Gwent Levels

The Gwent Levels are an iconic, estuarine landscape of international significance. First reclaimed from the sea in Roman times, the Gwent Levels are a network of fertile fields and historic watercourses, known locally as reens. This special landscape of high skies and low horizons is one of the finest examples of a 'natural' landscape hand-crafted by people in Europe; and one of the largest tracts of bio-diverse wet grassland left in the UK.

The Partnership

The Living Levels Landscape Partnership is supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund. We are delivering a programme of work which will promote and reconnect people to the heritage, wildlife and wild beauty of the Gwent Levels.



Contact

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- 📘 Our Living Levels



For more information about this walk visit:

www.livinglevels.org.uk



Bishton & Llanwern

An exhilarating walk with some steep inclines and declines requiring sturdy footwear but there are fine views along the way.

Limited parking adjacent to Bishton Church.

The Route

Start at St Cadwaladr's Church, Bishton
(Grid Ref ST 387873 | OS Explorer Map 152)

- 1 From the church porch, turn right and walk around the tower. Cross a stile into a field and head towards the road. Climb over a stile and turn right along Bishton Road for 50m.
- 2 Bear left at a finger post, over a stile and through a field gate. Cross two fields with old hedge lines and gaps, keeping close to the **Great Western Railway** and hedge on your left. Approximately halfway to the next line of trees bear half-right towards a footbridge over a reen. Cross into the next field with a tree-lined ditch on your right, over another stile and continue



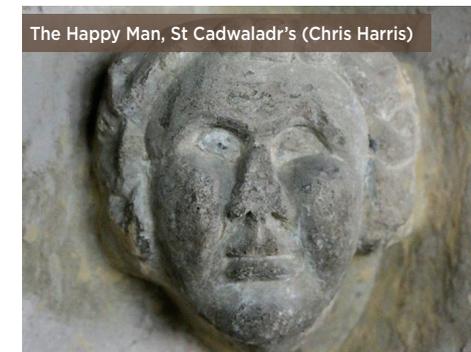
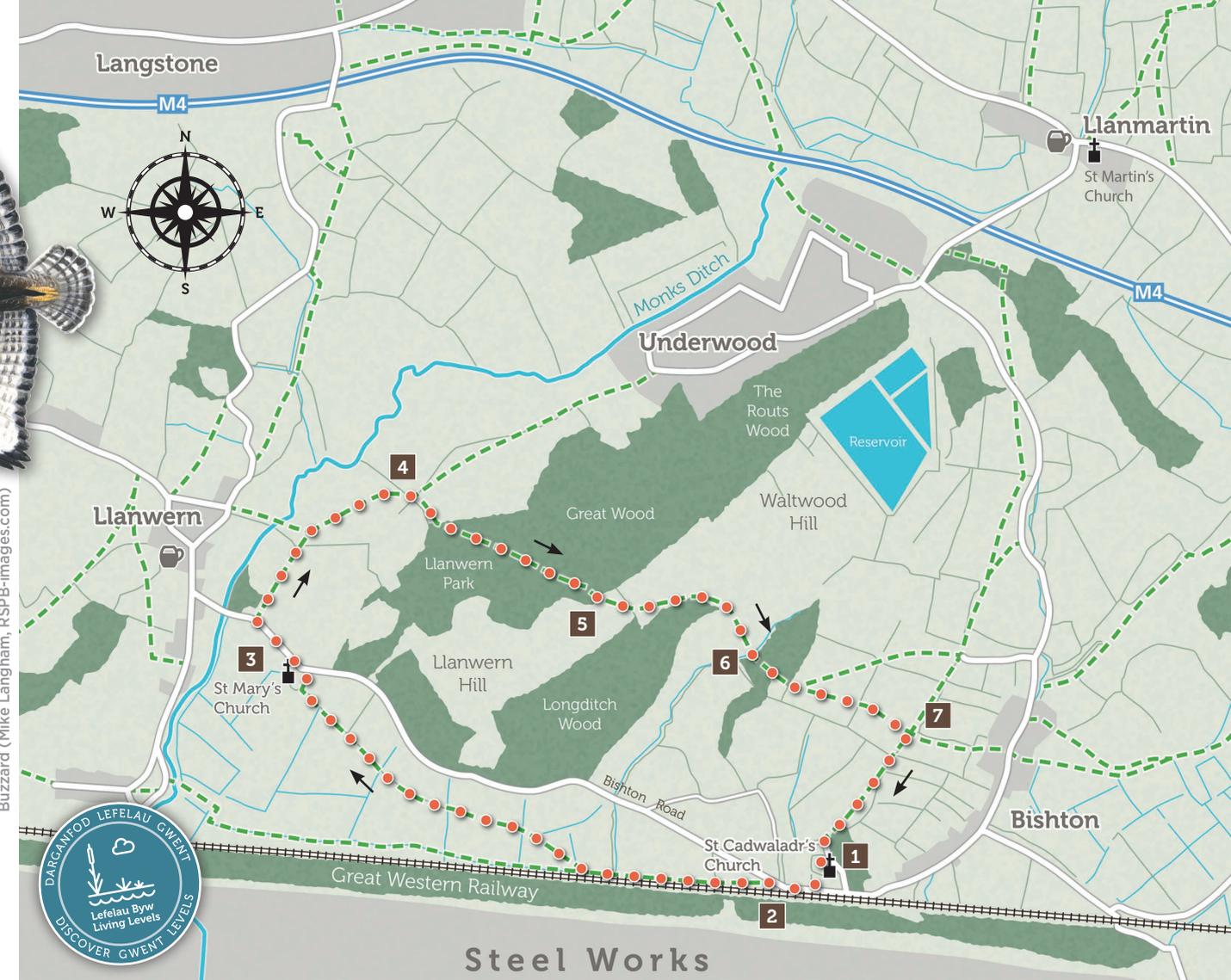
St Cadwaladr's Church (Chris Harris)

following the ditch. Crossing two further stiles, follow the hedge towards **St Mary's Church**, crossing a deep double stile into the churchyard. Enjoy a rest on the pleasant bench.

- 3 Exit the churchyard through the main gate and turn left along Bishton Road towards Llanwern. After 150m, at first house, turn right, over a stile and follow the track north through a field. Go through a kissing gate and, after 50m, turn right along a track and up towards **Llanwern Hill**.
- 4 At a fork, bear left along a grassy track. Cross a stile and ignoring the path straight ahead immediately turn right into a field. Head towards Llanwern Park Wood with the field boundary on your right. In the corner of the field cross another stile into a wood. Follow the winding trail up through the wood until you reach the hidden stile at the top edge of the wood. (Ignore path to left).
- 5 Cross into a field, keeping a row of tall trees on your left, then cross another stile towards Longditch Wood. Just before the wood, bear left towards a stile. Follow the path through a field towards another stile on the opposite side. Cross the stile and follow the path around the edge of the wood. Go through an old hedge-line and head downhill towards the corner of the wood on the opposite hill.
- 6 Cross a hidden stile and footbridge and follow track uphill along the right of the old boundary fence inside the wood, and then up a steep grassy section. At the top of the hill, cross another stile and head straight across the field to a gate on the other side. Go through the gate and follow the path downhill towards Bishton. Pause at the top of the hill to admire the views.
- 7 Heading downhill, cross two fields with gate between them. At the bottom of the hill turn right (do not cross the stile) and follow the hedge towards another stile. Follow left edge of field towards another stile. Cross the stile and bear left down the lane, back towards the church.



Buzzard (Mike Langham, RSPB-images.com)



The Happy Man, St Cadwaladr's (Chris Harris)



St Mary's Church, Llanwern (Chris Harris)



Llanwern House, former home of Lord Rhondda