

4. ABEREDW: LLYWELYN'S CAVE, LLANDEILO HILL, ABEREDW ROCKS AND CASTLE.

Lots of features on this steep but easy walk. Map: Explorer 188.

Circular: 2 miles. 1 1/2 hours.

Aberedw is 5 miles from Builth Wells. Cross the bridge and turn right at the roundabout. Take the next right, cross the roundabout at the industrial estate and take the next right. Follow the Wye as far as the left turn to Aberedw. Turn and park near the church and Seven Stars pub.

4.1 Aberedw village - Llywelyn's Cave 25 mins

Walk east out of the village to where the road crosses the river Edw. Take the 'no through road' ahead and turn right at the first gate. Follow the steep track up and round to the left. We are in a land of natural terraces; flat fields bordered by small tree-clad cliffs with more flat fields above. Shortly the main track bends right going through a gate, taking us a step up to a higher terrace. This is the terrace where the cave is secreted. Cross the field on the track. In the cliffs in the field to the right, just beyond where a stream drops down, is the cave. Here is where the Prince hid the night before he died, a boulder rolled across the entrance, communicating and receiving food via the small 'window'.

4.2 Llywelyn's Cave - The Top 20 mins

Continue up the track, through the gate beside Pantau Farm (what a nice tea-place it would make!) and onto the open hill. Take the grassy path straight ahead uphill. Ignoring the wide track crossing our path, head straight on up. At the fork go right. Steadily we climb terrace upon terrace; they arc out to our left in a vast amphitheatre. Imagine trying to find the cave if you did not know where to look! At the top is a pool. A good place to sit is beneath the cliff at the far end (grid ref:454089).

4.3 The View at the Top

Looking southwards, the Black Mountains form the backdrop to the Wye valley. Nearer is the cannon on top of Tywn-y-Garth (**walk 5**). Across the Wye, a small road winds up the long ridge of Twmpath (it crosses Pant-y-llyn Hill -**Walk 2**). Behind loom the Brecon Beacons. In front, leading into the heart of Llandeilo Hill, is a broad, grassy track, one of many which contribute to a wonderful network linking all the heathy commons as far as Radnor Forest.

4.4 Aberedw Rocks 20 mins

Keeping the cliffs on the right (they are the first outcrops of Aberedw Rocks), skirt round their edge on the descending track. Go right where the track forks (a manor boundary stone here is inscribed "Sir JRB 1882".) The thin, horizontal bands of slate that make up this hill occur across the valley too, on Pant-y-llyn Hill, because the valley is a gorge scoured out by glaciers. Our path curves right, above a ravine. We are tucked into the rocks which here are precipitous and wooded. Below, beside the road, are two large country houses, Allmawr and Abernant. There are picturesque engravings depicting the houses with the rocks.

We have a choice of ways back to Aberedw: **4.5a** and **4.5b**. The latter route crosses the farmyard of Pont Sioni. Although two rights of way converge on the yard, the owners contest they ever actually crossed it. However, this is clearly wrong as there is no other way to access the paths. An acceptable diversion around the yard – possibly to the old railway – would solve the problem.

4.5a Aberedw Rocks - Aberedw Castle & Village 30 mins

If you do not like steep paths or have no head for heights, turn around, your back to the Wye. Facing you is a field. Follow along its right boundary. It leads, via Pen-y-Gareg farm, back to Pantau. From here return the way we came, back to the village. To visit the castle cross the stile out of the churchyard and turn right.

4.5b Aberedw Rocks - Aberedw Castle & Village 25 mins

Facing the Wye, follow the narrow path that drops down hugging the rocks to the right of the ravine. (It is only really narrow at the beginning. It soon becomes completely negotiable, a classic shepherd's track. It leads through a small gate, into the farmyard of Pont Sioni, joins the farm drive, crosses the old railway line and meets the road. Turn right down the hill. On the right a stile leads up to the old railway line. A great view of the Edw Gorge from here. The path follows above the Edw into the field with the tiny motte of Aberedw Castle, owned by Llewelyn himself. A stile at the far end of the field brings us into the churchyard with its two old yews either side of the interesting porch.