



Photograph © G. Woosnam

Follow Route Y to the minor crossroads at The Lodge. Here turn right over a stile and cross the field diagonally left to a footbridge. Keeping to the same direction, climb through the next fairly large field to two stiles on either side of a field corner. Once past these continue, with the field boundary to your left, until you reach a pair of stiles on either side of a track. Go through and cross the next field, bearing slightly right, to reach a stile in the bottom R H corner. Walk on along the following field boundary, curving to the left, to another stile. Then continue downhill through a long field to the road at North Lodge. Turn right and follow the relevant earlier part of the guide to walk towards Colwinston.

Route Z - via North Lodge

Turn right and walk along the main road through the attractive village of Llandow past the Holy Trinity Church (17) on the right and The Great House (18) on the left. Go under the railway bridge then out into open country. Soon you reach The Lodge at a minor crossroads where three footpaths meet. Turn left. Proceed along the concrete drive that leads gently uphill to Cwrt Newydd farm. Where the gradient begins to steepen, the footpath diverges to the right from the drive and crosses grassland to a stile opposite the farm itself. Cross this stile, bear right to another stile and enter a field that you cross diagonally left to a stile on the far side. Continue in the same direction in the next field to reach a stone bridge at the bottom boundary. Now the route is the same as that for Route X, so follow the section of that route's description to complete the walk.

Route Y - via Cwrt Newydd

WALK FEATURES

- **Wick Church & Windmill**
 - North Lodge
 - Llampha Court
- **Colwinston Church**
 - Sutton House
- **Medieval Remains**
 - Country Views



Early 19th Century Cottages at Llandow
Photograph © A. Wilson

FOLLOW THE WALKER'S CODE

- Guard against all risk of fire
 - Fasten all gates
- Keep all dogs under close control
- Keep to public paths on farmland
- Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges & walls
 - Take your litter home
- Protect all wildlife, plants and trees

Valeways has published a guide to the Millennium Heritage Trail. This colourful book describes the 16 sections which make up the Trail and comes in a package with 16 separate A3 maps. The guide can be obtained from Valeways for £8.49 including post and packing.

Those who have never visited this part of Wales will enjoy walking through fertile, lowland countryside adjoining the spectacular Heritage Coast with its beautiful beaches. The route includes many fascinating historic features, from prehistoric burial chambers to magnificent castles, churches and mansions.

The Trail is split into 16 easy to follow sections, each of which can be walked within a few hours. The surroundings are diverse, often spectacular and steeped in history.

100km, spanning over 6,000 years of history. It wends its way through a variety of beautiful landscapes. At its northern edge there are panoramic vistas of the Blaenau Morgannwg, while in the south it skirts a spectacular cliffed coastline.



WALK LOCATION IN RELATION TO VALEWAYS' MILLENNIUM HERITAGE TRAIL



Valeways is a registered charity working in partnership with the community to reopen existing footpaths to create a network of enjoyable circular walks across the Vale of Glamorgan, linking towns and villages to the surrounding countryside and points of interest. We are indebted to the many volunteers who give up their time freely to provide this walk for your enjoyment.



Valeways Partnership - Many thanks to the Vale of Glamorgan Council and the Countryside Council for Wales for their continued support.

Cefnogyd gan Supported by



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Photograph © G. Woosnam

Turn right along the main road but soon left into Grove Road. Walk along this road, gently uphill for 1/2 mile to reach a stile on the right. Climb the stile and walk along the edge of the field until you reach a gate and marker post (9). Proceed left, crossing the field diagonally right to a small metal gate between two buildings (Ty'n y Cata farm). Make use of the waymarks to navigate your way through the farmyard to reach a stile where you overlook the grey stone building that is Sutton House.

Walk downhill towards Sutton House (10) crossing a rail track and a picturesque bridge to enter the farmyard. Proceed through the farmyard using the waymarked gates then straight ahead, through three fields and their associated stiles, to a gap in a hedge leading into a fourth field. Continue in the same direction, hugging the field hedge on the right, to a double stile. Cross the next field, downhill to reach a stream and a damaged stile (Route Y joins on here). At time of writing the stile is protected with an old gate that has, unfortunately, to be climbed. Then bear left through a hedge gap across a field to a stile (dated 1938). Cross two more fields, using waymarked stiles in their far left-hand corners, and head across the last field diagonally right to reach a well marked track (11) Bear right to reach the main road. Here turn right and proceed through the village of Wick to return to the starting point.

Route X - via Sutton House

Walk No. 49 & 50, Wick

The Hidden Vale

Distance: 7 miles or 8 miles .



Windmill at Wick



Leaflet revised December 2012



Pool just north of Llampha Court

Walk No. 49 & 50 Wick

The Hidden Vale

The length of the main walk is 7 miles. The Sutton Farm variant is 8 miles approx. However, there are shorter walks within the main walk circle (see map). The walks wend their way through an area of tranquil, rolling, verdant countryside which has more than its share of interesting features, both geographic and historic. Much of this area was once divided up into large estates owned by families such as the Dunraven, Carne and Franklen. Many buildings associated with these estates still stand. Some of the streams of the area that now join the west-flowing River Alun e.g. Clemenstone Brook, once flowed eastwards into the Thaw. They were 'captured' by the Alun as it cut down into the softer Liassic limestones of this area. This walk includes the villages of Wick, Colwinston and Llandow in its route.

Distance 7 or 8 miles (refer to maps for shorter options).

Map OS Explorer 151 Cardiff and Bridgend.

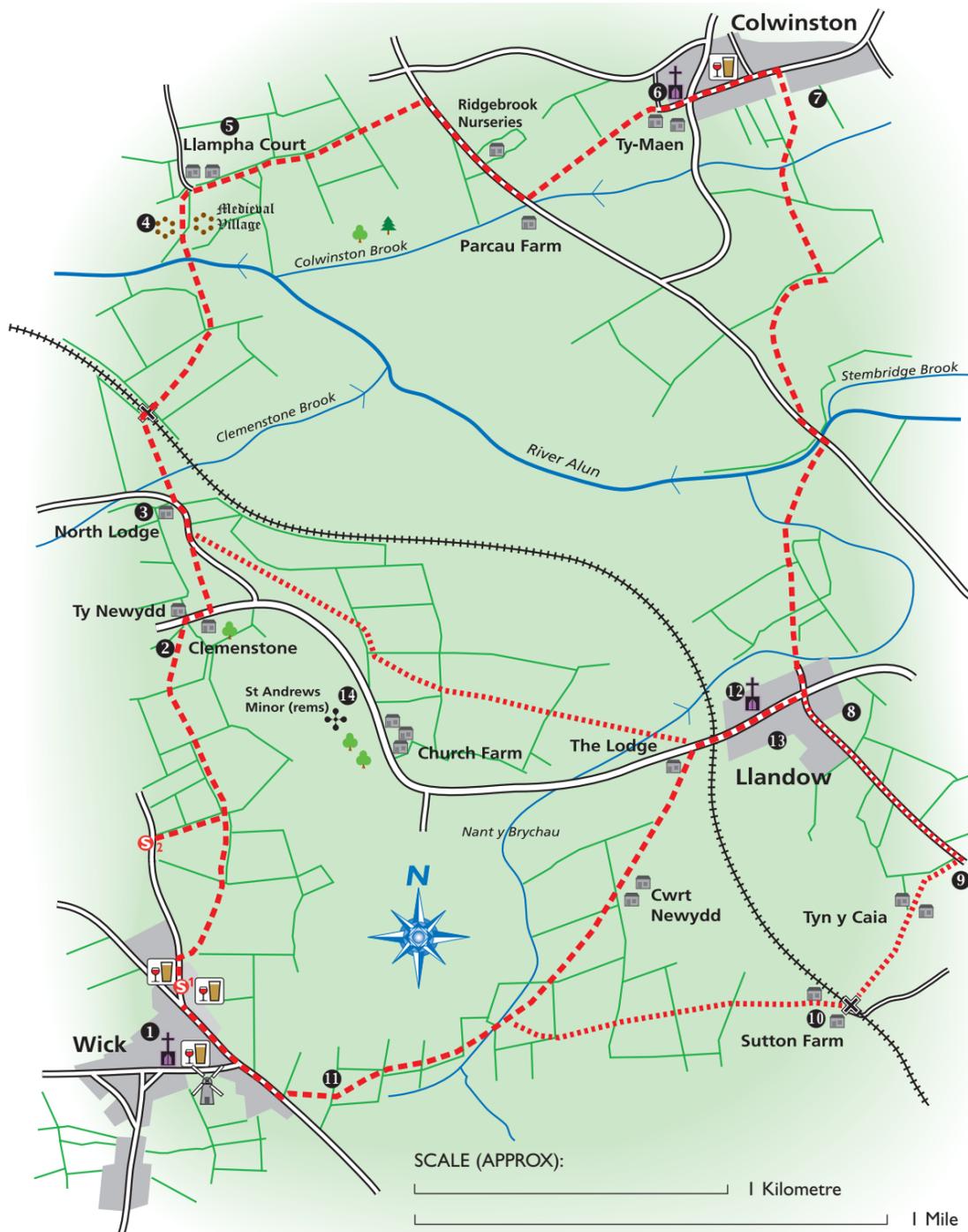
Parking Roadside & layby near start in Wick, GR 924724; roadside Colwinston and Llandow.

Public Transport Buses to Wick.

Refreshments the village shop and Sycamore Inn at Colwinston; the village store, Lamb and Flag and Star Inns at Wick.

Toilets at some of the refreshment locations.

START For the route as described below, start at either **S1** or **S2** (see map) near the Star Inn, Wick; otherwise where it suits the walker.



THE ROUTE

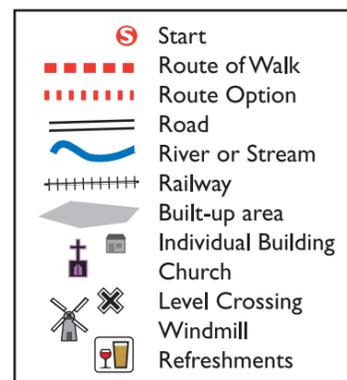
S1 Take the Eweny road that is between the Star Inn and village shop. Where the houses end on the right hand side, turn right over a stile. In the field turn left, and walking roughly parallel to the hedge on your left, head for the array of corrugated sheeting and fencing on the far side. Here cross over a stile and track to a low stone stile. Once over, bear right, keeping the hedge to your right, till you arrive at a double wooden stile. **N.B. There is often a pool of deep mud near the stone stile so you may prefer to start at S2.** **S2** Continue along the road for just over 1/4 mile beyond Starting Point **S1** to a stile/gate on your right. Once through head forward, keeping the hedge on your left, to the far end of the field where you will arrive at the double wooden

stile and join the **S1** route. Now head up the slope, keeping to the left of two vertical posts, walking on over the brow of the hill, with a barn on your right, to reach another double stile. Now proceed downhill through two fields and stiles towards a group of stone buildings (Ty Newydd and Clemenstone) **2**. Here turn right between the cottages and the farmhouse and then sharp left down a gravelled drive to a stile on your right. Cross the next field downhill, diagonally right, to reach a stile at the side of another farm track. Turn left to pass North Lodge **3** and then, very soon, turn right where you cross Clemenstone Brook to a stile on its bank.

Now proceed uphill, aiming at the point where the trees end on the skyline. A little further along there is a stile on the right that enables you

to cross the rail track. Cross the next field, bearing slightly left, (Colwinston can be seen ahead) to a double stile in the field's bottom corner. Turn left and head for a building (Llampha Court) facing you on the hillside. En route you will cross a bridge over the River Alun, then a stile, followed by an uphill stretch of a Green Lane **4**.

You then reach a cluster of stiles. Ignore the one on the left: take first the wooden, then the stone stile, on the right. Walk ahead, eastwards, in front of Llampha Court **5**. Now cross three fields, along a more or less straight course, keeping parallel with the hedge to your left. Then cross a fourth field along a clear path until you come to a stile that leads onto a country road. Turn right. After 1/4 mile you turn left at a stile near a pumping station.



Keep the hedge to your left until you reach a stile. Cross it and then bear right, uphill, around the perimeter of Ty Maen farm building to pass between a bungalow and the farm to a road.

Go slightly right and follow the road to pass St Michael's Church **6** and the Sycamore Inn on the left and a thatched cottage then Old School House on the right. Continue until the road flattens out and a stone stile and telegraph post (No.39) come into view on the left.

Opposite these turn right through the drive of a residence (Heddfan) and pass along the right hand boundary to the right of the garage to a stepped stile **7**. (Ensure you respect the residents' privacy as much as possible.) Proceed, downslope, to a double stile on the right, past the baptism pool, then over a bridge, another double stile and across a field to a gate. Pass through and over the crest of the next field following the line of overhead wires. Move into the next field via a stile. Then aim for a stile towards the bottom right hand right hand corner of this field. (The actual PROW follows a curved downhill course to your right.) Now turn left along a road for a short distance before turning right at the stile at Stembridge Brook Pumping Station. Follow the path to a nearby second stile and then walk straight ahead, passing a scrubby tree on your right, until you reach a footbridge

Continue more or less in a straight-line, uphill at first, through three fields and their stiles to a marker post overlooking the village of Llandow. Walk on, downhill over a stone bridge into the village itself. Opposite are some stone rendered cottages **8**. At this point there is a choice of routes back to Wick or indeed Colwinston, if you started the walk there.

Route variations:

X, via Sutton House, this adds about a mile to the total distance; **Y**, via Cwrt Newydd, (the shortest route back to Wick), or **Z**, back to Colwinston via North Lodge (see map). Descriptions overleaf.

PLACES OF INTEREST

1 Wick - its name is probably derived from the Anglo Saxon word 'wic' meaning hamlet. The village developed around two greens that still exist. There is a remarkable stability about some of the farming families for they have lived in the area since the 17th century.

St James' church has its origins back in the 12th century. There is a Baptist chapel dating from 1792.

The **windmills** were built at the highest point in this area to take advantage of the strong winds.

2 This was the centre of the Clemenstone Estate developed by the Franklen family in the 19th century. The estate was broken up because of the lack of a male heir.

3 North Lodge is Victorian.

4 On either side of this Green lane you may notice that the fields' surfaces are irregular and bumpy. This is because this area was the site of a substantial village, long abandoned. There was a mill on the brook and a church in the field to the right.

5 Llampha Court is a Grade II listed building. It dates from the early 19th century.

6 The Church is Listed Grade B, mainly 16th century.

7 There is a splendid view here with the shallow valley of the Colwinston Brook immediately ahead. Note the strips of land that stretch down the slope from what are or were farms towards this stream; showing how in the past the stream was a valued source of water.

On the horizon 45° to the right is the windmill at Wick.

The Baptism Pool is 19th century & belonged to a local Baptist Chapel.

8 These cottages were built in the late 18th and early 19th centuries to house workers on the Clemenstone estate and on railway construction.

9 Behind you there are fine views of the hills that rise above the mining valleys while to the left the hangars of the old aerodrome of Llandow come into view.

You pass on your left a **pillbox**, a memento of World War 2 defences in this then strategically important area. There is another adjacent to Ty'n y Caia.

10 Sutton House is a listed Grade II* building. Built by Ed. Turberville in the late 16th century.

11 The Church is a Listed Grade B. Norman 12th/13th century building.

12 The Great House dates from the 17th century.

13 Over to the left you should be able to see the ruins of the

Church of St Andrews Minor.

This church was handed over in the 12th century to St Peter's Abbey in Gloucester.