



Welshpool Circular



Welshpool

Route detail

A walk along the Montgomery Canal, followed by a stretch of the Offa's Dyke Path over Long Mountain.

Distance:	8 miles / 13km
Start location:	The Old Station, Welshpool Railway Station
Start Grid Ref:	SJ 22911 07201
Start What3Words:	loads.onto.baguette

Start

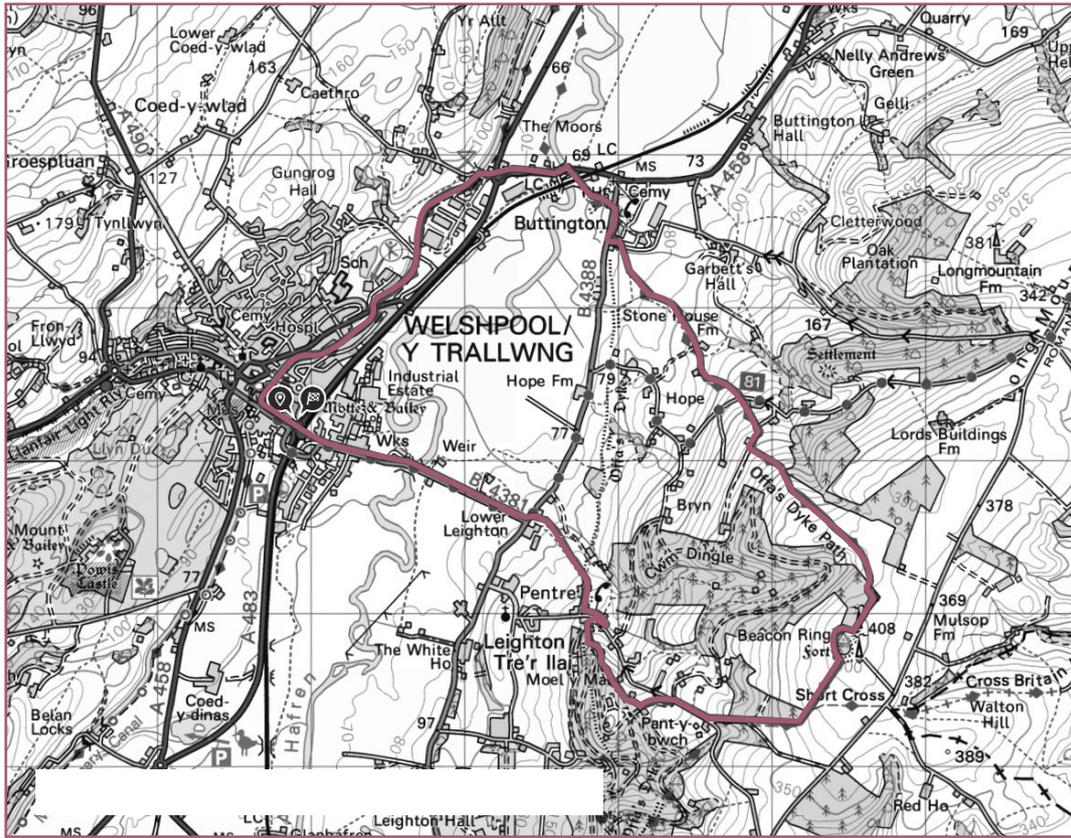
Start at the Old Station, close to Welshpool railway station, and walk straight through a mini roundabout as signposted for the town centre. Just before the road rises in a hump to cross the Montgomery Canal, turn right along a short tarmac path, passing a stone marking the end of the Glyndŵr's Way. A noticeboard explains about this national trail, which starts in Knighton and passes

through Llanidloes and Machynlleth on its 135 miles (217km) journey to Welshpool.

Turn right to follow the towpath of the Montgomery Canal, passing beneath an old railway bridge, followed by a wharf and moorings, then pass beneath a road bridge. Further along, the canal passes beneath a busy main road, while the towpath is forced up onto the road, where a pedestrian crossing should be used. Pick up the towpath on the other side of the road and continue, later passing under a brick-built bridge. When another brick-built bridge is reached, don't go under it, but go up a few steps and turn right down a short road called Rhallt Lane. Cross a main road and turn left to follow the pavement past McDonalds and the Livestock Market (Marchnad Da Byw), then take the A458 road signposted for Shrewsbury.

Take care crossing the busy Buttington Bridge, where

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there is no pavement, and at this point the Offa's Dyke Path is being followed. Immediately after crossing the bridge, turn right, go down steps, then follow a field path, noting the acorn logos that mark the trail. Use step stiles to cross a railway line, taking care to watch for trains. Follow field paths, passing through small gates, to reach a road. Cross the road and turn right to walk on a brick-paved path past a wooden palisade beside the Offa's Dyke Business Park, crossing its access road. The palisade was built on the actual course of Offa's Dyke, though this isn't apparent on the ground. No-one knows if the dyke incorporated a palisade, but if it did, then it might have looked like this.

When the brick-paved path ends, turn left along a short access drive beside a house. Go through a small gate and follow a path flanked by trees. Go through another small gate and follow a narrow, trodden path from field to field as marked by directional arrows acorn markers. Cross a little footbridge and turn left to walk from field to field up towards a huddle of buildings at Stone House Farm. Join a track and follow it to the right of the buildings, walking straight uphill and later keeping left of a solitary house.

Go through a small gate on the left and climb straight uphill, watching for markers. Small gates and signposts are passed as a narrow road is crossed. Continue straight uphill through a field, noticing a 'crooked stile' on the right, which is carved with words from the well-known 'Mother Goose' nursery rhyme. Climb from field to field through small gates, then join a track and follow it uphill,

bending right to pass a solitary house. Go through a gate and turn left as marked, straight uphill again. Go through a little gate and bear slightly to the right, climbing the steepest possible line up through a field. Reach another small gate and a signpost, and the path runs at a gentler gradient. Continue ahead, but when a track is seen heading straight towards a forest plantation, that is not the way to go. Instead, note a waymark arrow that points slightly to the right of the track, where the idea is to walk across a grassy hollow in the hillside, hoping to find a vague path that leads to a small gate and signpost at the edge of another forest.

Go through the gate and follow a path into the forest, continuing through a clear-felled area to reach another small gate. A notice explains about Beacon Ring, or Caer Digoll, which is an Iron Age hill fort surrounded by a circular embankment and ditch. The interior was planted with woodland in 1953 to mark the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. Aerial views reveal 'EIRR' spelled out in the trees. The highest point is 408m (1338ft). Walk halfway round the circular embankment to find another notice, as well as a bench offering extensive views. If you have a scrap of paper, a rubber stamp is available to mark your visit.

Go through a small gate to follow the Offa's Dyke Path downhill beside a field. Cross a step stile and continue down a track, then head straight downhill alongside a field to go through a small gate into a forest plantation. Another gate leads out of the forest, then immediately turn right and walk straight downhill alongside the forest.

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Go through a small gate and continue straight down a narrow forest road. Reach a junction where the Offa's Dyke Path is signposted to the left, but turn right instead to return to Welshpool.

The road drops steeply and could be followed all the way down to Pentre, but turn left along a track serving Leighton House to avoid most of the road-walk. Go through a big gateway marked as private, then immediately turn right to spot a footpath marker post and a kissing gate. A narrow path descends into forest and some parts might be a little overgrown. The path rises slightly to pass three huge beech trees, then descends and later passes within sight of a house. The path drops more steeply, and for a short while it runs more or less along the same line as Offa's Dyke, though the ancient embankment is very degraded. Turn right along a track and follow it to a road. Turn left down the road, which bends to the left as it passes houses at Pentre.

Turn right down a road signposted as a public footpath. Walk straight past Pentre Lodge and go through a double wooden gate then walk a short way down a grassy track. Turn left as marked through a big gate and keep to the left side of a field. Cross a step stile into another field, and if there is no sign of a trodden path, aim well to the right of a tall silo, until a black and white house comes into view, then aim to the right of that. Go through a small gate and cross a small field to reach a kissing gate and a road.

Turn left along the road and almost immediately right as signposted for Welshpool. There is no pavement, so walk on the right, facing oncoming traffic, until a pavement becomes available while crossing a bridge over the River Severn. Stay on the pavement and follow the road straight ahead until a mini roundabout is reached. Keep straight ahead and climb onto a footbridge that offers access to Welshpool railway station and the Old Station to finish.

Parking: Parking at Welshpool Railway Station, Church Street, Berriew Street and other locations around town.

Bus: Daily TrawsCymru buses serve Welshpool from Wrexham and Machynlleth, except Sundays.

Train: Daily Cambrian Line trains link Welshpool with Shrewsbury, Machynlleth, Aberystwyth and Pwllheli.

