

**Walk description:**

From the town centre the famous bridge over the River Dee is crossed, beyond which a short climb leads to the canal towpath. This brings you out into more open country where field paths are followed to the foot of the hill on which Castell Dinas Bran stands. A steep climb brings you to the top and a well-graded path leads down to a field and a lane.

From here a gradually descending green track leads down to the fields above the ruins of Valle Crucis Abbey. The canal is joined again near the motor museum and half an hour on the towpath brings you back to the bridge over the Dee.

**Access information:**

Llangollen is just off the A5 and is signposted from the A483. There is a car park in the centre of town, again well-signposted. There are regular buses to Chester, Chirk, Wrexham and Oswestry.

**Additional info:**

The tourist is well catered for in the town, which has a wide range of cafes and shops as well as public toilets in the main car park.

The town is very crowded in early July when the International Eisteddfod is held; accommodation is often booked up well in advance. In November there are exciting canoe races on the river. There are many attractions to visit, including the ruins of the castle and the abbey and the ancient Pillar of Eliseg. Besides these there is Plas Newydd, home of the Ladies of Llangollen; the motor museum; Dr Who exhibition; a model railway exhibition; the full size steam railway; canal boats; art exhibitions in the Eisteddfod buildings; a centre for European arts and crafts; good secondhand bookshops and much more.

The bridge is one of the Seven Wonders of Wales.

Pistyll Rhaeadr and Wrexham Steeple,  
Snowdon's Mountain without its people,  
Overton Yew Trees, St Winefride's Well,  
Llangollen Bridge and Gresford Bells.

See also walks 204 Snowdon; 226 Gresford; 230 Erddig

Wheelchair users can use most of the canal path east or west.

**Start grid ref:** SJ214420

**OS map:** Explorer 255 or 256

**Walk length:** 6.58 miles

**Duration:** 300 minutes

**Height gain:** 300 metres

**Contributor:** Jim Grindle

**Weathercall:** Get a local forecast for this walk.

Call 09068 020 516 from your phone or mobile. Or dial 09065 22 45 03 from your fax machine to receive a fax.  
09068 calls 60p/min, 09065 calls £1.50p/min.

**Features:**

- Hills or Fells
- River
- Pub
- Toilets
- Museum
- Castle
- Stately Home
- Birds
- Flowers
- Great Views
- Good for Wheelchairs

**Comments:****14/04/02 - Julie Williams**

Absolutely fantastic walk. Something for everyone. Short but steep ascent to castle ruins well worth it. Even horse drawn barges on the canal at the end. Fabulous.

Julie Williams

**07/02/04 - Richard Mabbutt**

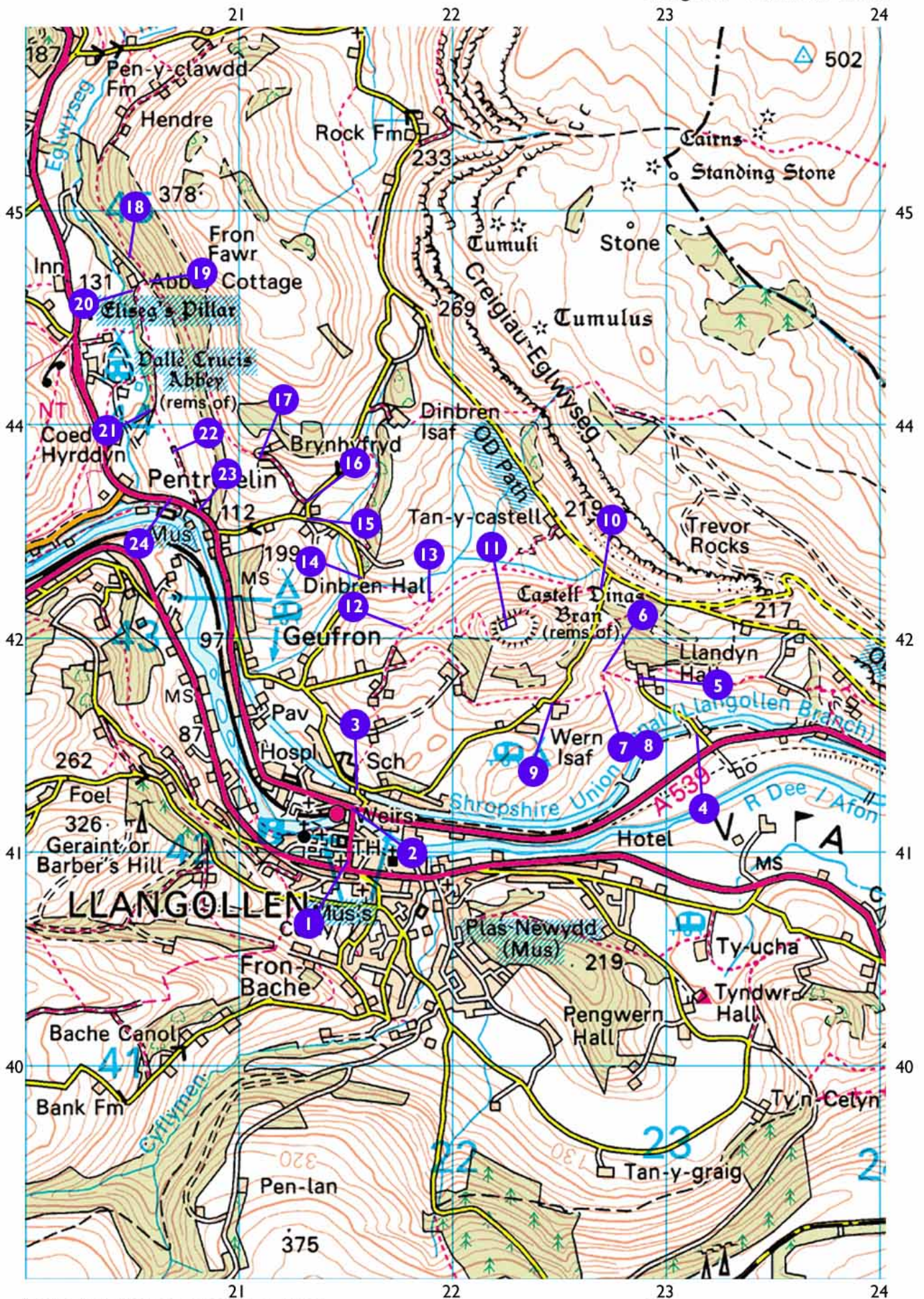
A great walk affording stunning valley views from the hill top castle.

**01/06/04 - PETER BURGESS**











An excellent walk stunning views!







Llangollen - Canal and Castle





- 1**  Turn right from the car park entrance and walk to the main street. Turn left and pass the Ectarc Exhibition and the tourist office next door. Cross the bridge and go half-left across the main road to a passageway with a signpost for canal boats. (Grid ref: 214420)
- 2**  Go up the narrow path. The path divides, but both ways lead to the canal towpath - the left is gradual, the right is a flight of steps. (Grid ref: 215422)
- 3**  Turn right on the towpath and go under the blue road bridge (John Whelan in the blue fleece is your guide for the rest of the route). Follow the towpath for 2km until you reach another bridge with a house beyond it. (Grid ref: 215422)
- 4**  Cross the stile by the gate and turn left on the lane, crossing the canal bridge. Go uphill on the lane for 350 metres until you reach Llandyn Hall. On the left is a stile which you probably won't see until you are right onto it. (Grid ref: 231425)
- 5**  Go over the stile and up to another by a gate 200 metres away and continue until you see a signpost on your left. (Grid ref: 228427)
- 6**  Go left up to a gate. (Grid ref: 227428)
- 7**  The little gate which you should use is permanently wired up, so just cross the larger one and then the stile immediately in front on the right. (Grid ref: 227427)
- 8**  Go half-left across the field. In winter you will be able to aim for the house which will be visible. There is a gate on the other side of the field which is always open. Go through and follow the hedge and then the buildings on the left, until you reach a stile onto a lane. (Grid ref: 227427)
- 9**  Turn right on a very narrow and steep lane for 700 metres until you reach on the left a kissing-gate, signpost and information board for the castle. (Grid ref: 224426)
- 10**  Follow the signpost pointing left. You will pick up a series of posts with yellow arrows on them and then a zigzag path ending at a stile. Go over and turn left to see the massive ditches of the Iron Age fort that occupied this site 1,500 years before the castle was built. The castle though, is straight uphill. (Grid ref: 227432)

- 11**  Even on a foggy day the castle ruins are impressive. On the far side you will be able to pick up a broad, fenced track leading down. (Grid ref: 222430)
- 12**  When the ground levels out you will see a rise in front of you - don't go over but round the side of it. There are two trees by the path. Turn right at the second of these, as shown by the lines on the photo. In summer these paths are hard to pick out because of the bracken. You should continue until you reach a fence. Then turn left and go down towards a stile. (This area and that between Waymarks 17 and 18 are particularly good for woodland birds in summer. I have often seen nuthatches, treecreepers, woodpeckers and flycatchers). (Grid ref: 218430)
- 13**  This photo was taken before the fence was reached because it shows the route more clearly. You can take a short cut down from here but the ground is steep and you may not easily find the path. When you reach the stile cross the field to the far right corner, to a stile by a lane. (Grid ref: 218431)
- 14**  Turn right and stay on the lane for 500 metres to a junction with a lane from the right. (Grid ref: 215432)
- 15**  The signpost for World's End is just in front of the white Landrover. Turn right and in just 50 metres you come to a track on the left, signposted Brynhyfryd. (Grid ref: 212435)
- 16**  Turn left and pass a building close on your left and two others up to the right. 300 metres from the lane you reach a gate. (Grid ref: 212436)
- 17**  Go through onto a grassy track for 1.2km, when it drops and joins another. (Grid ref: 210438)
- 18**  Turn left so that you double back with the wire fence on your right. There is another signpost just behind John but unfortunately a tree branch is obscuring it. It points to Valle Crucis Abbey. In 120 metres you come to a ladder-stile on the right. (Grid ref: 204448)
- 19**  Cross the ladder-stile and look for another one in the corner on the left, only 50 metres away. (Grid ref: 205447)
- 20**  Go over and follow the field edge for 500 metres. You will come to a signpost. (Grid ref: 205446)

- 21**  The abbey is signposted to the right down some steps, but follow the sign towards Llangollen. 250 metres further on you will come to a gate. (Grid ref: 205441)
- 22**  Follow an enclosed track for 300 metres to a road. (Grid ref: 206439)
- 23**  Cross the road to the pavement and turn right. In 100 metres you come to a canal bridge on the left. (Grid ref: 208436)
- 24**  As well as the letter-box in the photo there is a sign for the Motor Museum. Cross the bridge, turn left and follow the towpath for 2km back to Llangollen. (Grid ref: 207436)