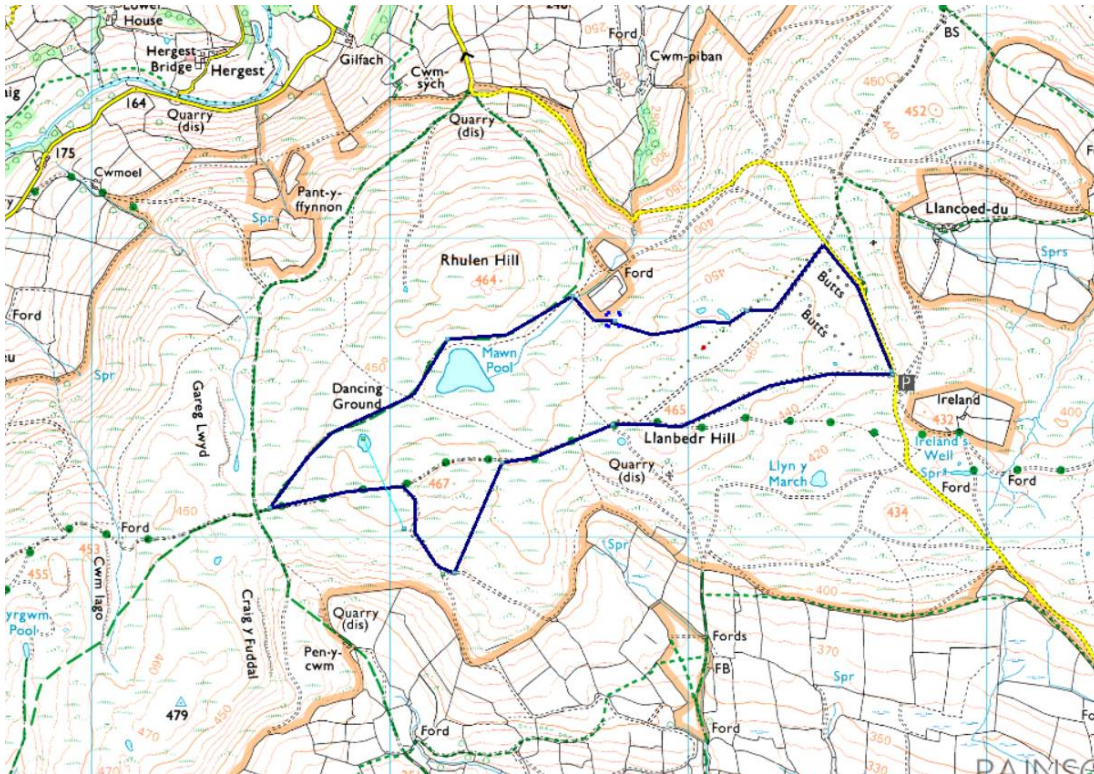


Local Interest Group Walk Monday 23rd November 2020 at 10am



Present: Dainis & Wendy Ozols, Mo Lloyd, John & Margaret Price, Ann Mathews, James & Jenny Martin, Lucy Trench, Elsa Harflett, Bronwen Jenkins, Jenny Francis, Richard Martin, Lucy Ashton, Julie Metcalf, Joan Lloyd, Tim Francis, David Price

Apologies: Richard Harris

“From thence taking the road towards Painscastle along the same brow over the little rocks to the fairies ring leaving the maun pool to the right and down to a large stone called Garregybeg to a point where two roads cross.” This is the extract from the Perambulation of the boundary of Lower Elfael Manor 1853 that formed the basis of our walk.

We began the walk heading westwards across Llanbedr Hill on an ancient track, which is one of the F Roads of Radnorshire and so probably does have vehicle rights along it. After a while, the track follows the parish boundary between Llanbedr and Rhulen. This land has been occupied since at least the Bronze Age and we walked past some small cairns along the way.

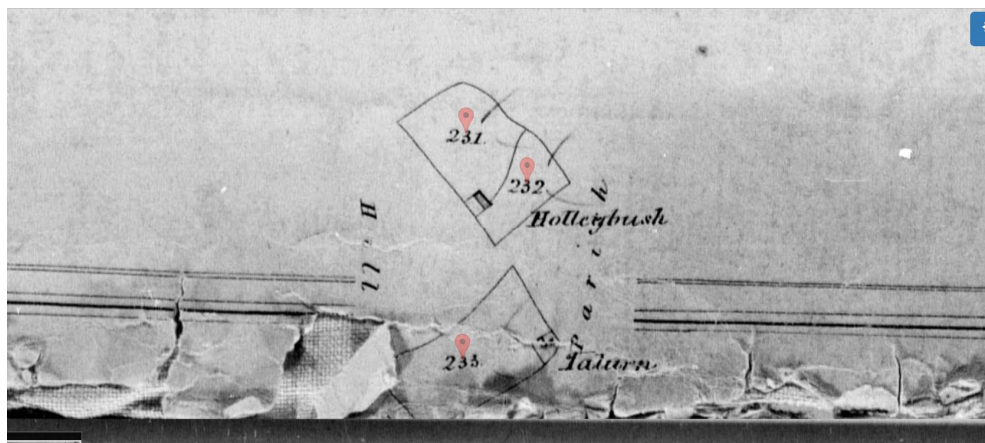
We turned off the main path to take in an area of interest above Penlan Farm. In a hollow there are two stones, possibly dating from the Bronze Age; they may have been used as markers on the many tracks that crossed the hill. Not far away is a pond and the site of a medieval long hut.

We returned to the main track near the Dancing Ground Boundary Bank which is 330m in length. Again, we headed westwards until we were in sight of the rocks of Gareg Lwyd. This was one of the ancient routes crossing the hill from the Bachawy valley to the Edw valley.

From this point, we began to follow the perambulation, so the Manor boundary here does not correspond with the parish boundary. We passed the Dancing Ground of the fairies and the Mawn Pool, where peat was extracted up until about WWI. Kilvert mentions, when visiting the Solitary at Cwm Cillo, that the Solitary's landlord was up on the hill collecting peat. We carried on until we came to a rock (Garregybeg), alongside the enclosure now called Pigtail. There is a medieval platform near to the rock. This is an ancient crossroads where once the road from the Edw valley to Hay met the road traversing the hill and going to Rhulen Church, via Cwmpiban.



Pigtail is now two fields separated by the track. At the time of the Tithe maps (1839), it was two separate properties. The one to the north was called Holley Bush and consisted of two fields and a house, which was occupied by Thomas Pugh and his family. He was an agricultural labourer. In the south field was a cottage, called Tallurn, where Thomas Lloyd and his wife lived. In the 1841 census, these places were called Upper and Lower Hill House. Further back in history it seems likely there was a drovers' pub here. At the top of the pitch out of Rhulen, where there also used to be a pub, the road came straight up alongside fields which are now part of the hill. It is possible to see the banks which used to enclose them. It then went between the fields and made its way straight towards Ireland. On the Tithe map it was marked as the "Road to Hay"; the new route around the waterfall is 18% longer.



The following extracts are from the Tithe Map and the censuses.

Edward Pugh oc – Thomas Pugh 231 232 House & field

Thomas Lloyd himself 233 Cottage & field

1841 Census Lower Hill House Thomas Pugh 45 Ag Lab
 Elinor Pugh 55
 Ruth Pugh 12
 Sophia Pugh 11 (House maid at Noyad in 1851)
 Sarah Pugh 5 (chicking maid at Llanowen in 1851)
 Pheby Gwyn 11
 Ann Phillips 24

1841 Census Upper Hill House Thomas Lloyd 55 Ag Lab
 Joan Lloyd 50

After the climb to the top of the hill we came to a place where there used to be three crosses marking a crossroads. We walked along the parish boundary again for a little while, probably the perambulation boundary. Eventually we met the modern road and made our way back to the cars.

A wonderful walk had been enjoyed by all and the weather at times certainly added to the atmosphere. Many thanks to Mo Lloyd for organising such an interesting morning for us.