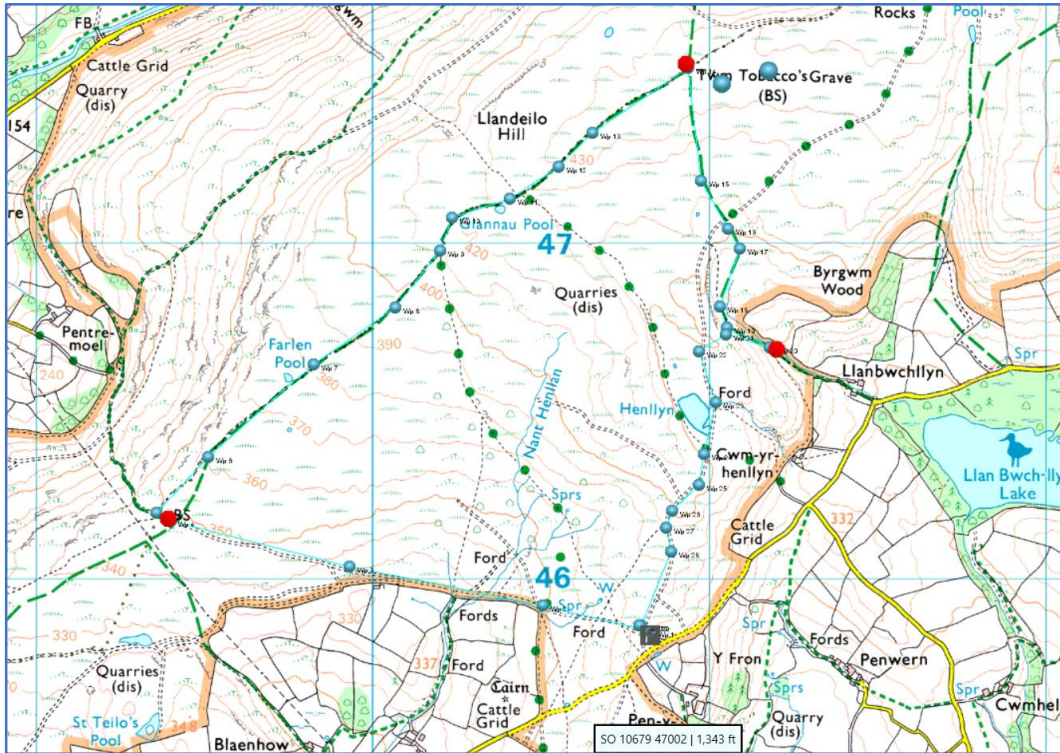


Local Interest Group Walk Friday 23rd October at 10am



Present: Helen Barnett, Richard Harris, James & Jenny Martin, Richard Martin, Ann & Wayne Matthews, Dainis & Wendy Ozols (WO), David Price, John Price, Lucy Trench, Elsa Harflett, Bronwen Jenkins, Mo Lloyd. Apologies were received from Jenny Francis and Joan Lloyd.

This was another walk to follow the boundary of the Manor of Lower Elfael, as documented in the boundary perambulation of September 1853, part of the Court Leet of the Manor. The aim was to investigate what remains of any boundary markers listed and any items of interest on the way.

Everyone congregated on the common opposite Pengarth farm, Llandeilo Graban, and the walk started promptly as the weather forecast suggested rain might not be far away. WO acted as leader and soon found the Rhiw Gwydd Boundary Stone. This stone was erected in 1882 to mark the boundary between the De Winton (Maesllwch) estate and the Sir Joseph Bailey (Aberedw) estate. This stone had proved difficult to find on previous occasions, mainly due to the old path which it marked being now grown over and the new path being quite a lot further west. (Many thanks to Kate Shaw for actually locating it for us.)

We followed the new track towards the north, which deviates a little from the actual boundary but gives good views over the Edw valley above Aberedw, with a natural amphitheatre of terraces alongside rocky outcrops. The group soon arrived at Glannau pool, one of the larger pools on the hill. The track returned to the boundary and the next marker was another 1882 stone. This has suffered from weathering and is only legible on one side; alongside is Twm Tobacco's Grave. This has inspired more legends than any other feature on the hill. It is mentioned in Kilvert's Diary, but who was Twm and what was he doing being buried in this lonely spot in the middle of the hill?



Here the group left the boundary and turned south on the track towards Llanbwchllyn, with lovely views of Llanbwchllyn lake (the largest natural lake in Radnorshire), the Begwns and the Bachawy valley. Again, there were signs of terracing in the landscape with a lovely flat, amphitheatre-like area having been cleared of bracken to provide winter bedding for a commoner's animals. Alongside a stream making its way down to the lake is another stone. This is much older and is now triangular in shape, with one or two smaller stones alongside. Did it once mark a boundary, or is it part of a burial cairn or maybe even a stone circle or other prehistoric monument? One thing which is certain is it has been there a long time and it too shows some signs of weathering.

Then followed the climb back up to Henllyn pool which is the largest pool on the hill. The legend of Henllyn pool goes back to Giraldus Cambrensis who, writing in the 1190s, says that on 1st December 1135 (the night when Henry I died) one natural and one artificial pool burst their banks. A "cloud-burst" above Henllyn pool provided a deluge of water which flooded and extended Llanbwchllyn lake into the size we see today. From here we descended back to the cars.

The weather was kind and, although there was a little drizzle at one time, the local visibility was fine and everyone enjoyed this final walk before another lockdown period in this difficult year battling with the Covid-19 virus.

