WALK 3

TO UPPER NOYADD AND THE BEGWNS

(3 miles approximately - *actually nearer 4 miles and slightly longer if you do the Optional Extra*)

*This is the first of Mona's walks that is almost all on side roads and bridal paths; walking boots are definitely required.*

First drive to LLOWES COMMON (see WALK 1), and park your car near the junction of the road which tums left down on to LLOWES COMMON. Do not take this road, but follow the road ahead until you reach a T junction *(where there are various direction signs on wooden boards)*. Tum right here and continue walking for about ¾ mile; *on a sharp left hand bend you will see a track going off to the right; this is known as "Dirty Lane"* until you reach the first farm which is UPPER NOYADD (Vol III 272-273 etc.) locally known as "THE NAYTHEE", and once the home of FLORENCE and ELEANOR HILL. This farmhouse was newly rebuilt when Kilvert visited it. The front door (on the other side of the house), at the steps of which FLORENCE and ELEANOR were photographed, has now been replaced by a window.

Follow the lane past UPPER NOYADD to where an old lane leads off on the right. Proceed up this lane, and where it joins a second lane, tum right again. Follow this lane past LANE COTTAGE on the left and *(after a long, gentle uphill climb)* GWERNALWYE FARM on the right, until, at the end of the lane some ¾ mile ahead a gate opens on to the BEGWYNS. Pass through the gate, and, turning right, continue past PEN-YR-HOEL (Vol I 236 etc.) to join the main road near the cattle grid. Tum right down the main road passing the *drives to Gwernalwye Farm on the right and* UPPER CWMGWANNON on the left, and about ½ mile further on, a green unused lane on the left leading to the ruined LITTLE PEN-Y-FOREST (Vol I 336, 339) *(Upper Pen-Y-Forest)*.

*On the right-hand side of the main road is the other end of Dirty Lane, mentioned above, where there is a standing stone which is worth observing (Description: A shaped stone, thought to be the cross base and wheel-head of a ritual cross, or boundary mark. Source Os495card; SO14SE12 J.Wiles 21.08.02. There are various explanations of the stone.) You can carry on down Dirty Lane to return to the T junction with the wooden signs, which facilitates doing the "optional extra". Otherwise continue as per the next paragraph.*

A short distance ahead a drive on the left leads to PEN-Y-FOREST FARM (Vol II 334, 341). Another ¼ mile will bring you back to the tum for LLOWES COMMON and your car.

*Optional Extra*

If you would like a distant view of UPPER NOYADD and an unrivalled view of the WYE VALLEY towards GLASBURY and beyond, retrace your steps to the T junction, as when walking to UPPER NOYADD, but this time tum left and follow the lane, passing as you go, a tum on the left by a bungalow, which leads to HENDOM FARM.

In a short distance the lane itself tums left for the BRUNANT FARM. Here carry on straight ahead on the cart-track to the first gate on the left from where you will have a grand view of the meandering WYE *(we think the first gate you come to is new as the view looking towards Glasbury is much better if you walk another 50 yards or so to the second gate)*.

On the opposite side of the valley you can see LLANIGON and the wooded WENALLT (Vol II 173, 175, 177) rising behind. Here at LLANTHOMAS Kilvert loved to visit DAISY, but alas the house has now been demolished.

To the right you can see GLASBURY and to the left HAY-ON-WYE.

Now return to the lane leading to the BRUNANT, and you will have a splendid view of UPPER NOYADD from the gate opposite the mouth of the lane.