Monmouthshire Health Walk - Mathern & Wyelands Walk

THE ROUTE

DISTANCE

2.8 miles/ 4.5 kilometres

TIME

1 hour 30 mins

GRADE

Moderate, several stiles and moderate inclines

STARTING POINT

Mathern Village, near the Miller's Arms

- Head southwards out of the village along the road, passing under the motorway to Innage village
 Head into Innage village to explore St Tewdric's Church and, 100 metres further along the road, Mathern Palace
 - Retrace your route back through the village to Innage Farm
 - At the bend in the road, cross the stile and follow a footpath across the field keeping close to the hedge on your right, cross-
 - ing another stile
 - Cross a third stile onto a track and turn left on this to cross a bridge over the motorway
 - Turn right at the end of the bridge then, in 30 metres, turn left over a stile. Follow the path through four fields (and metal kissing gates) following the line of the hedge on your left.
 - Cross the road through two kissing gates and turn right as far as another gate
 - Turn left here and cross a field to a stile
 - 9 Follow the path across four more fields and stiles (two are metal squeeze stiles at either side of the driveway to Wyelands
 - 10 Turn left in front of the next stile
 - Cross the final stile onto Snakey Lane. Follow this back to Mathern
 - 12 Turn left in the village to return to the start

POINTS OF INTEREST

A Tewdric was a king of Glwysing and or Gwent in the 7th century. He had abdicated to become a hermit near Tintern, but returned to lead his people in a famous victory against the Saxons. It had been prophesized that he would be victorious, but that he would be mortally wounded, that two stags would bear his body and that pure water springs would well up where he rested to clean his wound. St Tewdric's Well is reputedly the last of these resting places, where he died.

B Mathern Palace is a former mediaeval Bishop's residence. Having fallen into disrepair, it was bought by Henry Tipping, writer and garden designer, who renovated the house in the Arts and Crafts style and laid out the gardens.

• Wyelands is a regency villa built about 1820 for Sir George Buckle who became High Sherriff of Monmouthshire at the time of George III. It was designed by Robert Lugar who was also the architect for Cyfarthfa Castle and Balloch Castle in Scotland. It now operates as a tourism venture, available for large parties, corporate events, etc.

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