

Caldicot: Castles and Countryside

Severnside Heritage Trail Series



land & legends

MONMOUTHSHIRE'S CULTURAL HERITAGE
TREFTADAETH DDIWYLLIANNOL SIR FYNWY



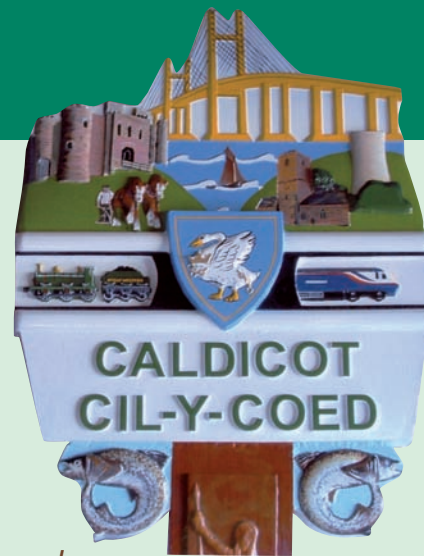
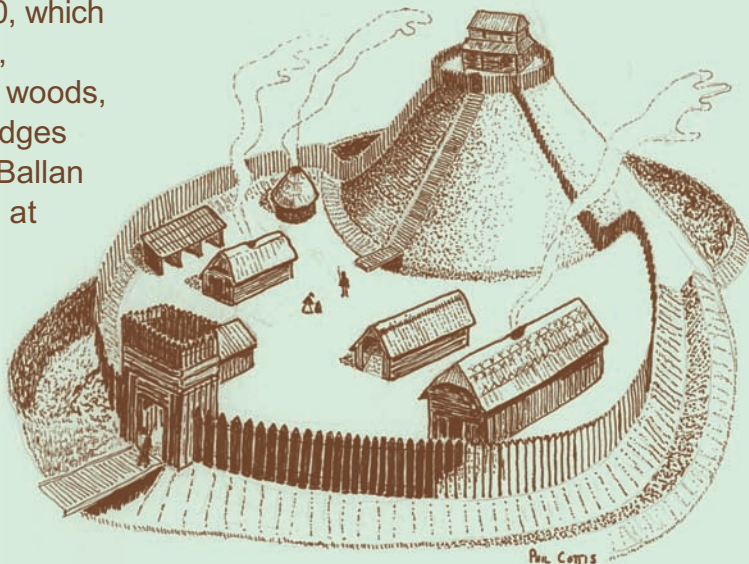
Caldicot: Castles and Countryside

Caldicot, meaning warm shelter, is recorded in the Domesday book. It notes

'The sherrif Durand holds of the king in Caerwent one tenement called Caldicote. He has there in demesne three ploughs and fifteen semi villeins and four serfs and one man-at-arms. All these have twelve ploughs. Here is a mill of ten shillings all this is worth six pounds.'

Castles

Ballan Moor **D** is believed to be the original site of Caldicot castle, hosting a motte and bailey style structure probably built in the 11th century. It was noted in the survey conducted in 1770, which included all lands, tenements, mills, woods, rivers, fishing, hedges and ditches that Ballan Moor was valued at £8.3s and 11d!



The current day Caldicot Castle **A** is a 12th Century building and sits within a 60 acre Country Park.

The Castle keep was thought to have been built around 1122 by Milo Fitzwalter, Earl of Hereford. In 1158 the castle passed to the de Bohun family, and then to Thomas Woodstock, youngest son of King Edward III through marriage to Alianore de Bohun, and then through various royal hands until it passed to the Lewis family of St Pierre in 1857. In 1885 the ruins were sold to JR Cobb, a wealthy antiquarian, who set about restoring them, until the family sold the castle to the local authority in 1963 and it has been owned by them ever since.

A number of ghosts and spirits including a grey lady, hooded monks and a poltergeist reputedly haunt Caldicot Castle. Ghost Tours and Fright Nights are available to visitors wishing to experience these mysterious goings-on for themselves.

The Cobb family were also the last owners of a large house



known as "The Homestead" **B**. It was built by C H Walker (the engineer of the Severn Tunnel) and was later used as a home for girls, and then a World War One hospital. Today in its place is a copse of trees, as Mrs Cobb deemed it a blot to her view from the castle and had it pulled down.

The Cobb family is now buried in St Mary's Church **F**, a 12th century building, but with further developments made during 14th and 15th centuries.

Another significant 12th century building is Llanthony Secunda Manor **E**. It was built by the monks at Llanthony Abbey as the second manor of Llanthony.



Llanthony Secunda Manor

It is now a private residence and is the only building of its type remaining in Caldicot.

Countryside & it's Stories...

North of Caldicot Castle is the Neddern Valley, Ⓒ a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). It regularly floods, so attracting a wide variety of wildlife and water fowl, particularly swans, the insignia for Caldicot.

In the 1860s, famous inhabitant Henry Jones, who lived at Court House Farm Ⓒ, started a business as a purveyor of flour. He invented a method of making self raising flour which

was then used to improve the quality of bread in the Crimean War. Queen Victoria was an early user of the flour and as such Henry Jones was appointed purveyor of patent flour and biscuits to Her Majesty.

Brothers Charles and John Wesley, founders of the Methodist movement, are both known to have preached in Caldicot, possibly at 'The Cross' Ⓗ.

John Wesley's journal notes on October 21st 1794, states "About one of the clock I came to Callicute and preached to a small attentive company of people".



Sandy Lane

For details of accommodation in the area visit
www.greenbeds.adventa.org.uk



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Content has been provided by the Heritage Sub-group of the Severnside Area Forum. The Severnside Area Forum exists to promote community action through representation and practical activity.

This group has received community development support through Rural Community Action. Rural Community Action is funded and facilitated by the Welsh Assembly Government. www.monmouthshire-rca.org.uk

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Visit **www.monmouthshire.gov.uk** for more walks in the area.

Acknowledgements

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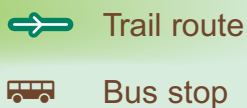
Circular walks of 2, 3, 4.5 & 6km

The full walk takes approximately 2-3 hours

Ordnance Survey maps: **OS Explorer EXP154**

Grid reference at start point: **487.886**

This walk may have limited access in certain places and therefore may not be suitable for the less mobile.



Busnesau / Businesses

- 1 The Castle Inn (Tŷ Tafarn) - **01291 420509**
The Castle Inn (Public House)
- 2 Ye Olde Tippling Philosopher - **01291 420337**
(Tŷ Tafarn a Thŷ coets o'r bedwaredd ganrif ar hugain)
Ye Olde Tippling Philosopher
(Public House & C19 coaching house)
- 3 Cross Inn (Tŷ Tafarn) - **01291 420692**
Cross Inn (Public House)
- 4 Brooklands Motel (Llety) - **01291 430500**
Brooklands Motel (Accommodation)
- 5 The Lychgate (Gwely a Brecwast) - **01291 422378**
The Lychgate (Bed and Breakfast)
- 6 Rose Cottage (Gwely a Brecwast) - **01291 420030**
Rose Cottage (Bed and Breakfast)
- 7 Clwb Golff Dewstow - **01291 430444**
Dewstow Golf Club
- 8 Canolfan David Broome - **01291 420777**
The David Broome Event Centre
- 9 The Haywain (Tŷ Tafarn) - **01291 427193**
The Haywain (Public House)
- 10 Fferm y Cwrt (Gwely a Brecwast) - **01291 421754**
Court House Farm (Bed and Breakfast)

Cludiant Cyhoeddus / Public Transport

Bysiau / Buses: **X14, X74**

Trenau / Train: **Gorsaf Cil-y-coed / Caldicot station**

Countryside Code. Please respect property and livestock when walking footpaths. Leave gates and property as you find them and dispose of rubbish appropriately. Take particular care to avoid road hazards. Thank you.

Rheolau Cefn Gwlad. Byddwch cystal â pharchu eiddo a da byw wrth gerdded ar lwybrau troed. Caewch gatiâu a gwaredwch ar ysbwriel yn briodol. Cymerwch ofal arbennig i osgoi perygl ar yr heol. Diolch.