

Rogiet: Around Rogiet and the Railways

Severnside Heritage Trail Series



land & legends

MONMOUTHSHIRE'S CULTURAL HERITAGE
TREFTADAETH DDIWYLLIANNOL SIR FYNWY



St Marys Church, Rogiet

Around Rogiet and the Railways

The Community of Rogiet was made up of three parishes— Llanfihangel, Ifton and Roggiett. The present name of Rogiet was recorded in the 12th Century, but 'Roggiett' appears on documents early in the 18th Century. The present spelling was changed by the Royal Mail c1955.

Railways

The main housing development took place in Roggiett and Ifton from about 1920 until 1940 to accommodate families following the development of the Severn Tunnel Junction marshalling yards, engine sheds, wagon works and station. Properties increased dramatically to accommodate them. Now there are only a handful of railway workers remaining.



Rogiet Windmill

The Rogiet Countryside Leisure Park **A** is constructed on land reclaimed from the site of the Severn Tunnel Junction marshalling yards following closure of 'The Railway' in 1987. Now the professionally sculptured topology provides walks with directional vistas, a section for horse riding and several water features.

As you walk around the trail you will cross by the remains of the embankment **B** on which the quarry railway line was constructed; mainly used to transport railway track ballast from Ifton Quarry **C** to the main railway line.



Totem Pole at Dewstow Golf Course

Around ¼ million ton of stone were quarried here for the construction of the M4 Toll Plaza and parts of the Second Severn Crossing. It was also used as a location for episodes of the 1975 BBC series Survivor; and in a large section that floods, film companies have created sets for mock sea battles and various seascape sequences. Please respect the quarry is private property and should not be entered.

In its 'market hall' the nearby Roggiett Hotel **D** (built 1888) once catered for the large numbers of the farming community attending the old cattle market. Being close to the railway meant that cattle trains were able to convey stock to various destinations in the UK.

Around and About

Dewstow - from Dewi's Stow - the hamlet of Dewi (David) takes its name from the church which once stood on the Dewstow estate. The Dewstow hidden gardens and grottoes **E**, constructed circa 1900, were the hobby of Mr Henry Oakley a



Dewstow hidden Gardens and Grottoes

keen horticulturalist. After his death in 1940 the project was neglected. The new owners, the Harris Family, have reconstructed the original design and opened it up to visitors.

As you pass Dewstow Golf Course, look for the Totem Pole **E**. Carved from a dead Great American Redwood Sequoia, this unique 50ft masterpiece depicts the game of golf and local history. This was created by a local retired builder, and carries an inscription on one wing in memory of his wife.

Just off the main trail path is an example of tree graffiti **F**. The alleged artists were Polish



servicemen stationed in the area during World War II. The carvings of parachutists are located quite high up on two beech trees, so will take some finding!

The Rogiet Windmill **G** is the last surviving remains of small tower mills in Monmouthshire. Strategically located at the top of the hill overlooking the Severn Estuary, this 16th Century listed building was probably once used as a watchtower with its wide view overlooking the Severn Estuary. A listed cluster of farm buildings **H** with the Medieval Church of St Michael and All Angels now closed. Mentioned in the

Domesday Book, the structure consists mainly of 13th Century architecture with 14th Century extensions. The medieval churchyard cross base is one of the best remaining structures of its kind.

The Minnetts Lane **I** is believed to have been used by Drovers bringing stock down to the fertile moorlands. The importance of the moorland dates back to Roman times, when they created the basis of the drainage system that provides today's fertile pastureland.

Originally the site of the *Rogiet Poor Land* **K**, this was the area designated for the "poor" to grow food. Part of the site is now a recreational walk owned by Gwent Wildlife Trust. On the opposite side and just below the entrance to the poor land walks was a well, known locally as "Gypsy Well" as it was an area where gypsy travellers used to stay. The story goes that a traditional Gypsy Caravan belonging to a Gypsy Queen was burned on the site after her death.

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



This leaflet has been funded by Adventa, Monmouthshire's LEADER+ rural development programme funded by the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund, the Welsh Assembly Government and Monmouthshire County Council. For more information visit **www.adventa.org.uk**



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

Whilst every effort is made to ensure accuracy, Adventa cannot accept any liability whatsoever for any loss or damage arising in any way from this publication. Nor can they be held liable for any loss, injury or damage sustained by anyone visiting or walking the trail.

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

Acknowledgements

CADW, Chepstow Museum, Dewstow Golf Club.





Circular walks of ?km

The walks take between 2-3 hours

Ordnance Survey maps: **OS Explorer EXP154**

Grid reference at start point: **ST873461**

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

Busnesau / Businesses

- ① Clwb Golff Dewstow - **01291 430444**
Dewstow Golf Club
- ② Gerddi a Grotos Dewstow - **01291 430444**
Dewstow Gardens and Grottoes
- ③ Garej a Siopau Washbourne - **01291 424334**
Washbournes Garage & Stores
- ④ Siopau min y fford - **01291 430428**
a Swyddfa Bost - **01291 420230**
Roadside Stores
& Post office
- ⑤ Gwely a Brecwast Ffermdy - **01633 880232**
Farmhouse B&B

- Trail Route
- Bus stop
- Viewpoint
- Train Station
- Church

Cludiant Cyhoeddus / Public Transport

Bysiau / Buses: **X14, X74**

Trenau / Train: **Gorsaf Cyffordd Twnnel Hafren**
Severn Tunnel Junction

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.