

# **Anne's Walks**



**Six walks around Caerwys**

**Developed and Produced by  
Holywell Rambling Club**



## ANNE ROGERS



*Anne Rogers* lived for people, her Church and walking. All her working life was spent at Caerwys VP school where she taught several generations of the same families. During the war her classes were swelled by evacuees from Liverpool some of whom returned to live in the town as adults.

She was an elder in the Presbyterian Church of Wales, Caerwys and was the prime mover in transferring the church and congregation to the Bethel chapel when the 'red chapel on the hill' closed.

Anne organized monthly walks for Caerwys locals and annual Christian Aid walks. She was also an active member of the Holywell Rambling Club, participating in hard mountain walks at an age when most people are content to put their feet up. Her evening walks for the ramblers were legendary, not only for their incredible 'torch necessary' length, but also for the homemade supper she always provided for the group. Always open to new ideas and fresh experiences, Anne reluctantly entered public houses with the ramblers during the sixties. She led her last walk at the age of 88 still managing to find new paths and fresh pastures and crossing stiles with ease.

Anne was a well-known and well-loved Caerwys character who always had a smile and friendly word for everyone that she met on her daily walks or walking the six miles to the hairdresser's in Holywell.

Anne went to meet her maker in her 89th year on the 12th September 2001. She will be sadly missed.



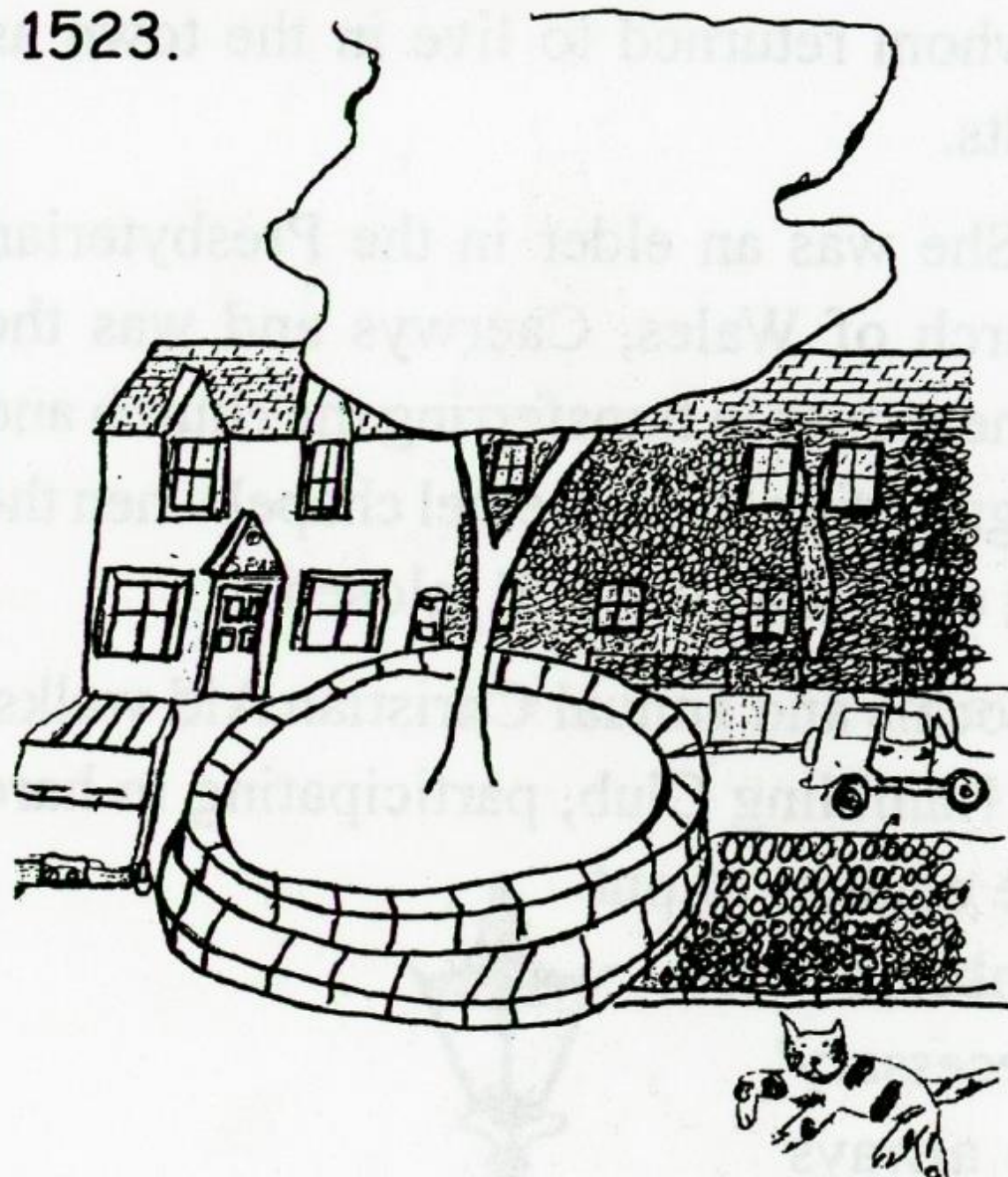




## YSGOL YR ESGOB TOWN WALK



Hello, welcome to Caerwys. Most people think that Caerwys is a village. It's not, it's a town, a very special town because it was the only Welsh market town to be granted a charter from Edward 1st in 1290, which allowed free trade for the Welsh. This was the beginning of the growth of Caerwys as an important market town. Another thing Caerwys is famous for is being the home of the first Eisteddfod in 1523.

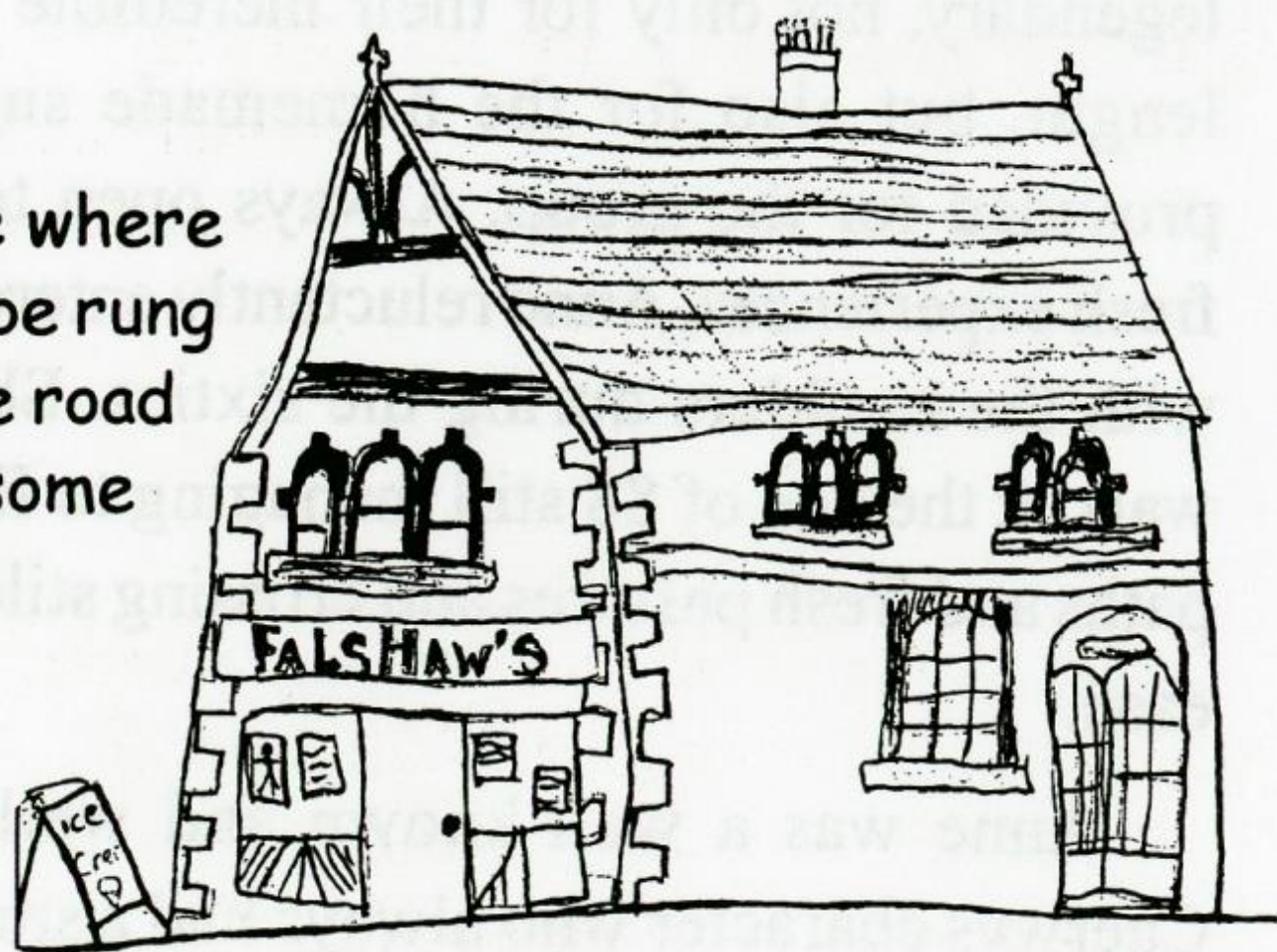


Our walk starts on the square by the tree. ① This used to be in the middle of the crossroads, but was moved to its present position as it was in the way of larger carts and lorries. We think it should be moved back to slow the traffic down.

Our school badge is a picture of the tree set in a bishop's hat, and is on all our school jumpers.



Across the road you can see Bell House where Mr. and Mrs. Falshaw live. The bell used to be rung on market days and for funerals. Across the road is their shop, where you had better buy some sweets as it's going to be a long walk. ②



Follow the signpost pointing to the High Street and a little way along on the right you will see a large black and white house. This is the "Old Court", ③ where trials used to be held. Some people say there is a secret tunnel under the road connecting it to the Old Jail in South Street, where they used to keep prisoners and some people say that it's haunted. Old Court was also, at one time, - a public house called the Cross Foxes.



Continue up High Street and turn left onto a lane which leads through the lychgate to the church and churchyard. Coffin bearers rested in the lychgate before the service. ④

St. Michaels Church is a very historical place which was started in the 14th century and lots of parts have been added since. If you have time to look you can find two carved dragons inside the church, like the ones by our title.

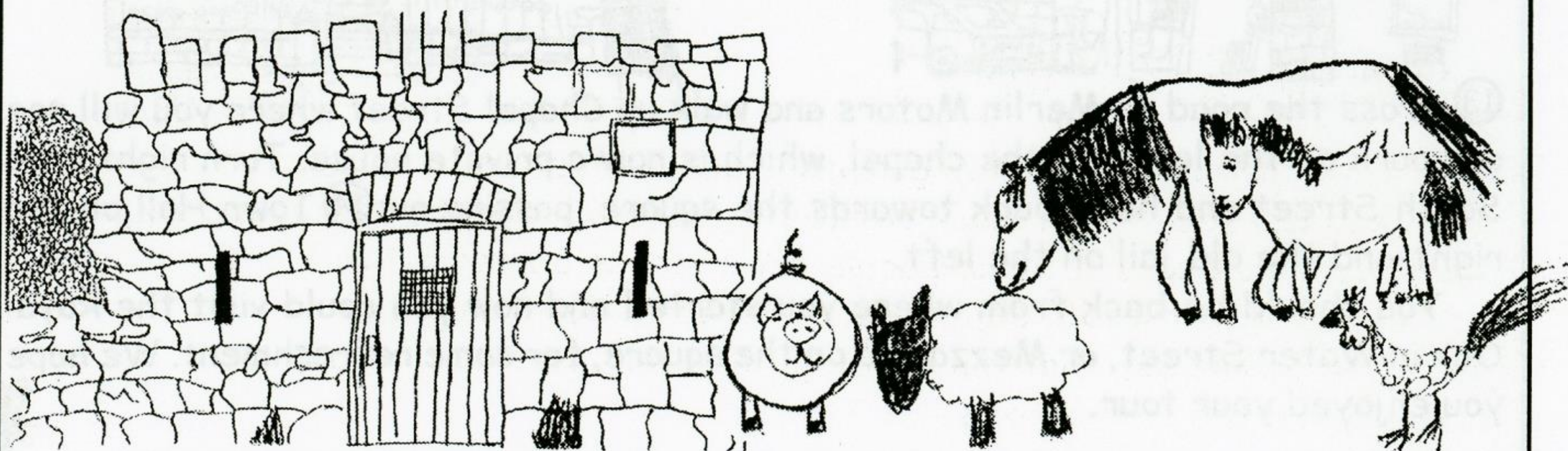


Go out through the second lychgate ⑤ and you will see our "new" school, Ysgol Yr Esgob, across the road. ⑥ There are three school buildings in Caerwys, but two are now used as private houses. Turn right here onto Pen y Cefn road and at the T-junction you will see "The Old School House" used until the early eighties but now a private house. ⑦ Many people in Caerwys still remember having to use the outside toilets here, especially in winter.

Continue straight on at this T-junction and take the next right into Drover's Lane. The name reminds us of the animal markets that were held regularly until recent years and the drovers that would herd the animals to Caerwys for sale.



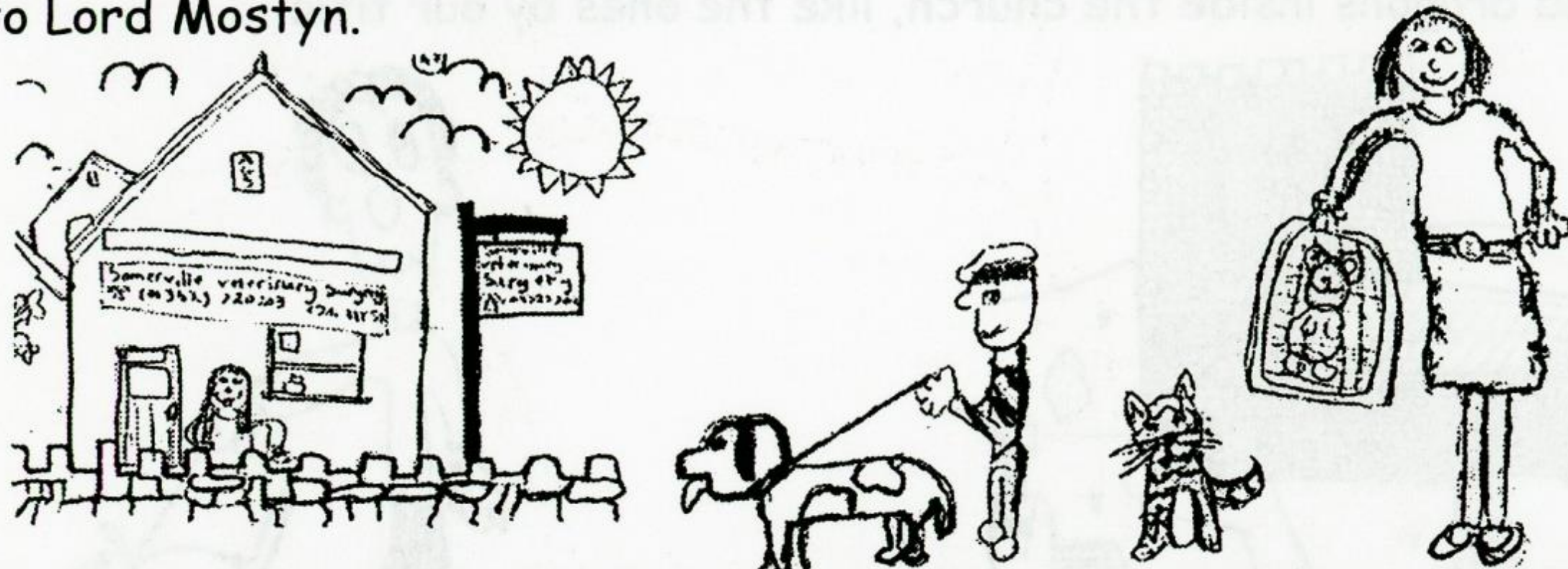
Walk down this lane and on your left you will see a plaque on a building saying it was the first school in Caerwys. ⑧ A little further down you'll see an unusual, roofless building called the Pinfold, where stray animals were put during market day. Please read the plaque by the door. ⑨





Pass the public toilets, built for a visit of Princess Margaret to the 400th anniversary celebration of the 2nd Eisteddfod in 1968.

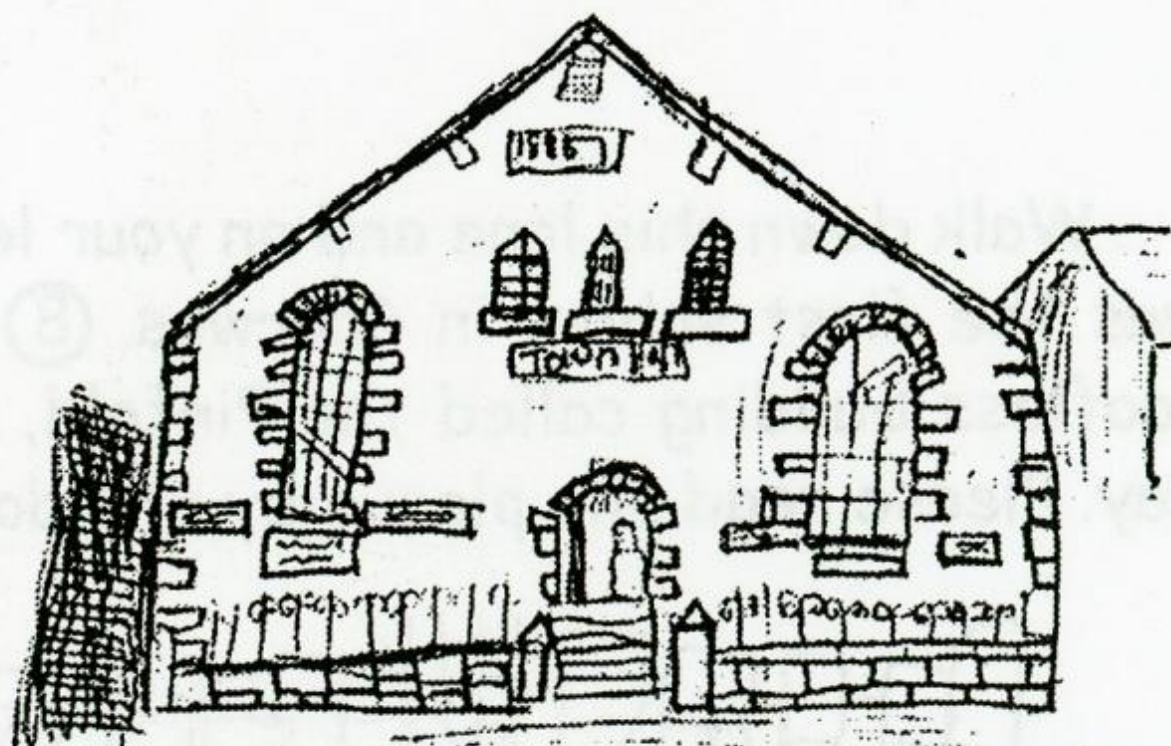
Turn left along North Street. Keep on walking and you will come to Somerville Veterinary Surgery that deals with all sorts of animals from gerbils to sheep, cattle and horses. ⑩ Next door is the Piccadilly Inn, named after a race horse belonging to Lord Mostyn.



Cross over the road and go back to the junction with Drover's Lane. You should notice what was once a police house, now used to hold a doctor's surgery. ⑪

Turn left down Holywell Road (opposite Drover's Lane). On your right you will see a cul-de-sac, called Llys y Goron, where Caerwys cattle market used to be held, but is now sheltered accommodation, which has recently won prizes for its summer flower displays. ⑫ Continue on down Holywell Road and take the first right into Bryn Aur. Continue past the bottom of Water Street. This street takes its name from the water carriers having to bring up all the water to the town from the seven springs at the bottom of the hill. Carry on up a little hill, past a red brick house, to a common area, called the Marian.

We mentioned before an old pub called the Cross Foxes. A girl called Marian Luce who worked there was accused of murdering a customer. It is thought that he was drunk, Marian didn't want him to come in, so she pushed him and he fell over, banging his head against a pillar. She is supposed to have been hanged on the Marian, only minutes before a pardon arrived for her.



⑬ Cross the road to Merlin Motors and walk up Chapel Street where you will see our park on the left and the chapel, which is now a private house. Turn right onto South Street and head back towards the square, passing our ⑭ Town Hall on the right-and the old jail on the left.

You should be back from where you started and now you could visit the Royal Oak in Water Street, or Mezzaluna on the square, for some refreshment. We hope you enjoyed your tour.









## WALK 1

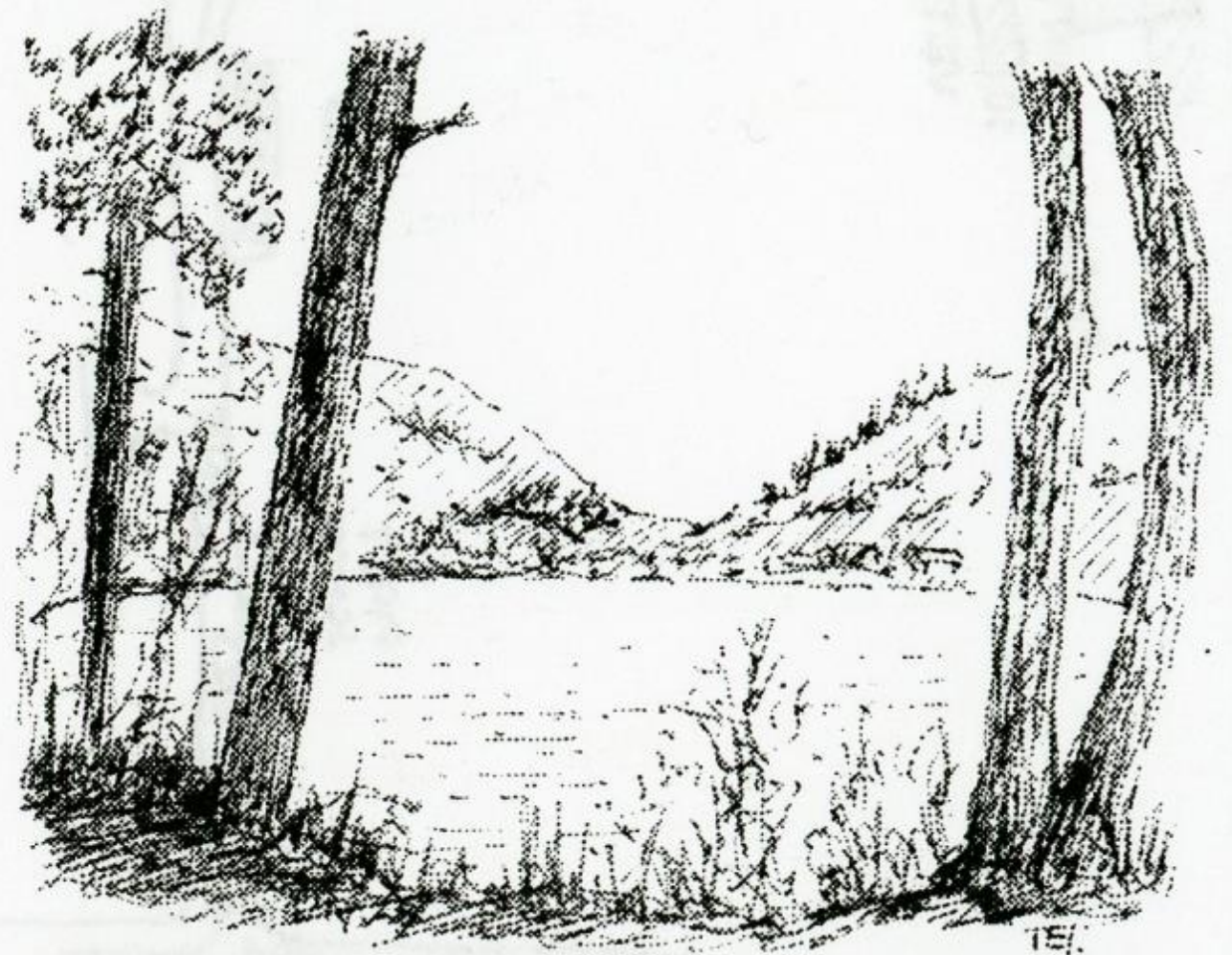
## Ysceifiog Lake (2½ hours)

Starting from the signpost in the Town Square, walk along the left hand side of High Street. About half way along, beside the house called Dedwyddfa, turn left along a paved walk and through the lychgate, into the churchyard. Go through the churchyard, keeping the church on your left. Emerge through the next lychgate and turn left along the road. At the corner, look for the school sign and a cottage on the other side of the road. Take the footpath that runs down beside the cottage. It is a track to begin with. Shortly, you come to a stile on the left. Cross this, go down the left hand side of the field and through the edge of the wood (about 8 minutes so far). Continue down this path, ignoring junctions until you reach the main road. (20 mins from start).

Turn left along the pavement. This is the Mold – Denbigh road. Just before the road junction by the telephone kiosk on the opposite side of the road is a water trough. This was placed here for animals that were brought by drovers to the fairs and markets in Caerwys. At the junction, take the second left (narrower) road, signposted Babell and follow it as it curves to the right in front of the houses. Just as the road bends to the left and uphill, cross the stile on the opposite side. Follow the path, keeping the wood on your right hand side and go over another three stiles. The last of these brings you to a junction of lanes. Go straight along the one opposite you, down past a house with a balcony to reach The Mill and the Ddol Uchaf Nature

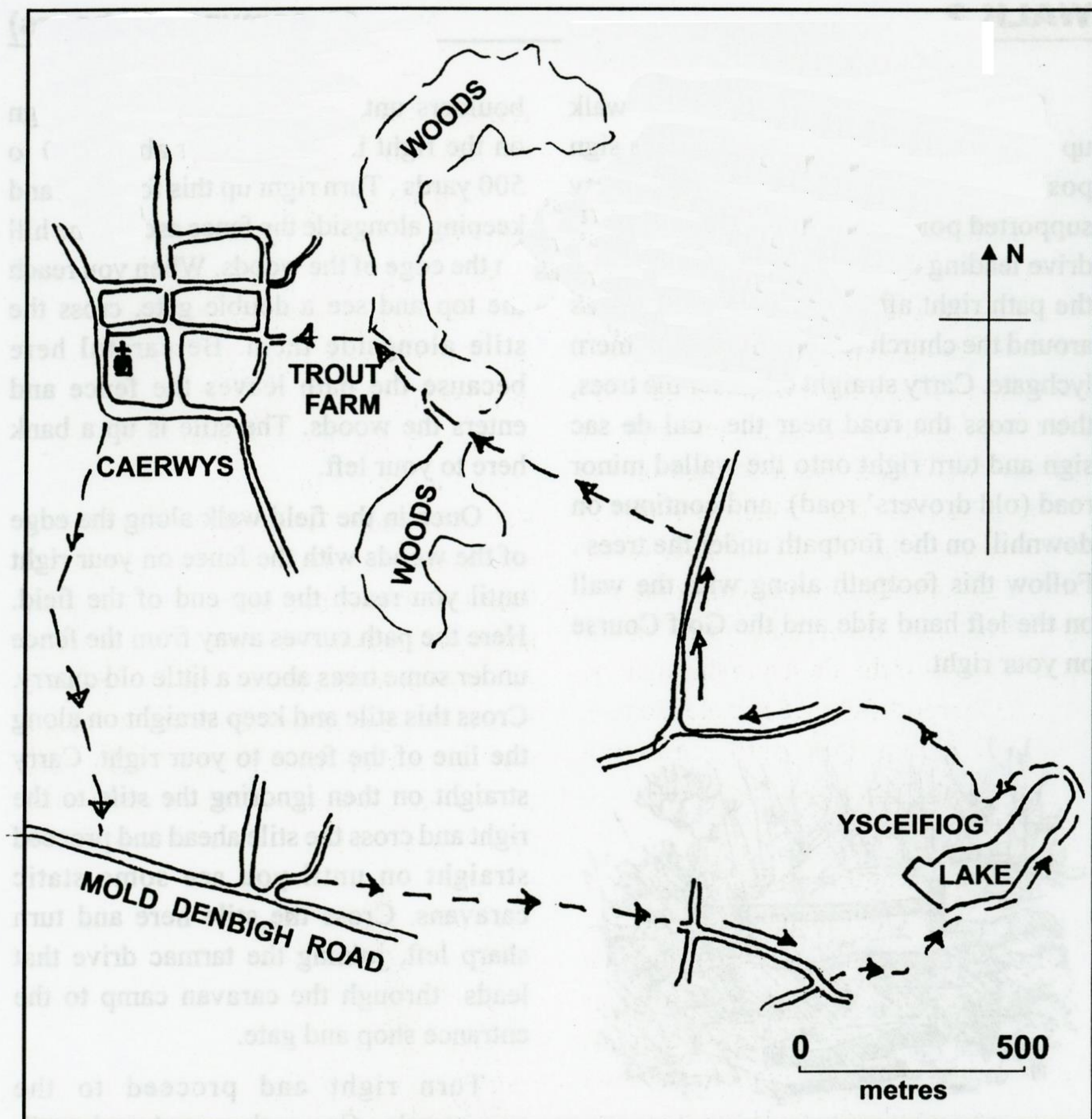
Reserve. Cross the bridge and keep left at the junction.

As the road begins to climb steeply, you will see a footpath sign marked Babell and Caerwys on your left. Follow this up a steep bank and left over a stile and into the wood. About fifty yards to your left, through the trees, you may be able to see the stream that runs out of Ysceifiog lake. Ignore footpaths that lead off to the right. Follow the lake fence and as the path rises you will see a stile and a path to the left. Take this. It goes through some tall conifers and you can soon see the lake on your left. After the stile into the meadow follow the hedge on your left to cross a footbridge, also on your left, by the end of the lake. At the footpath junction, take the path forking upwards to the left.



At the top of the climb the path curves to the right and at the very top, there is a signpost. Turn left (marked Caerwys) and cross the stile into a field. Cross to the top edge of the field, another stile and a second field, to reach Bron Fadog farm. Keeping the farmhouse on your left, take the well-metalled farm track and continue until you

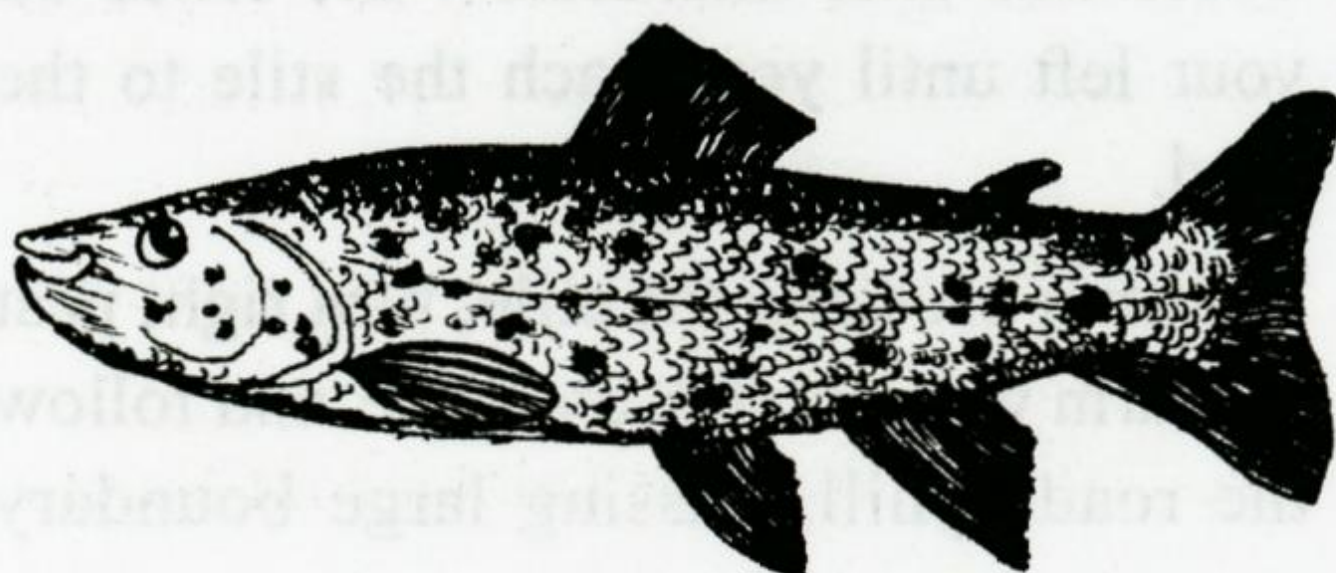




meet a road after about 5 minutes. Turn right along this road to the first footpath on your left with a stile alongside a gate.

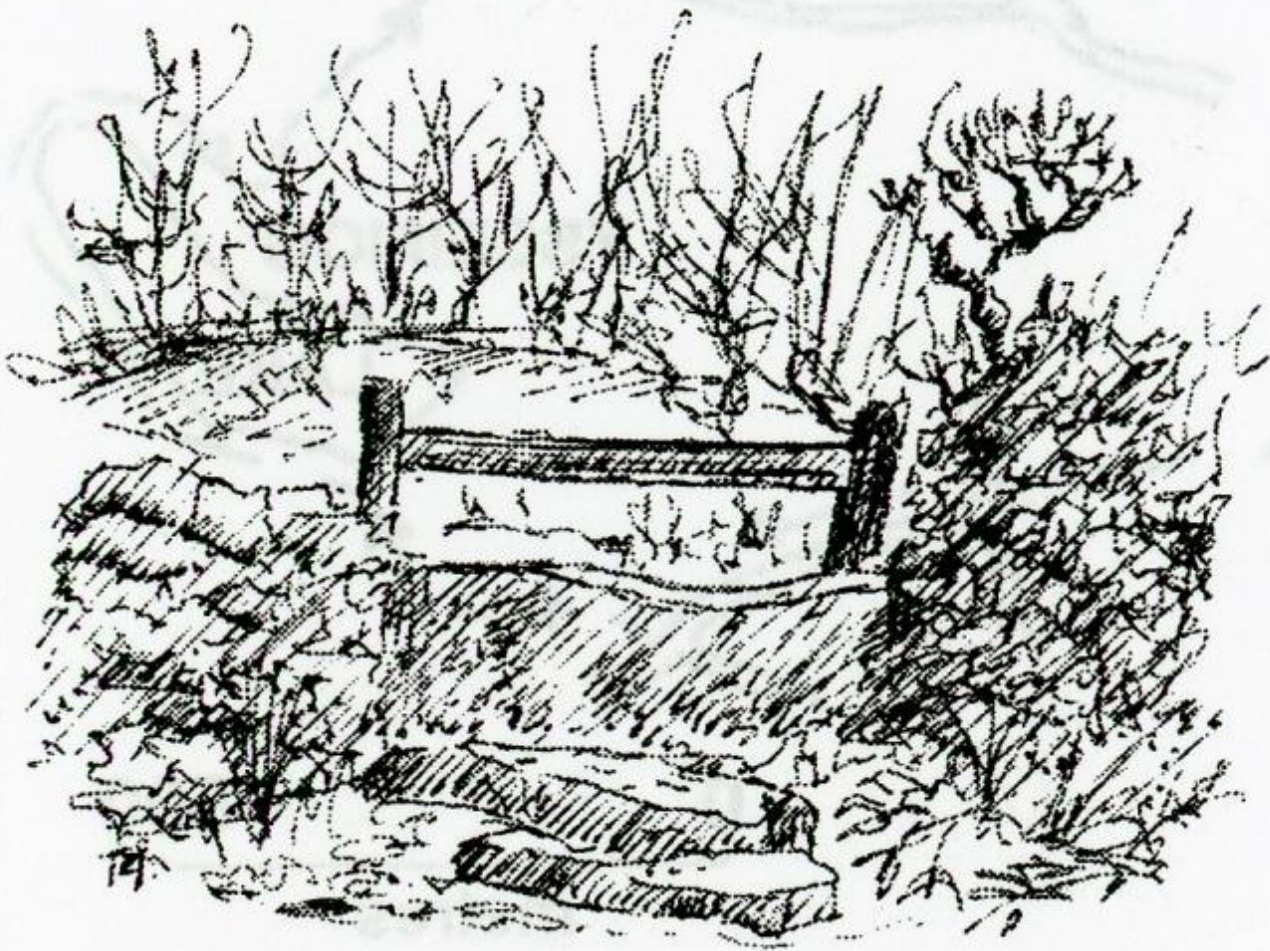
Go over this stile and towards the next - which is directly ahead. Go over this stile and head for stile in hedge on left, cross over and turn right. Go diagonally across this field towards the wood with Caerwys in the distance. The path then goes down a steep hill and into the wood on your right.

Follow this round to the Trout Farm. Cross over the stile on your left in front of the buildings and up the hill back to the Square.





Starting in Caerwys Town Square walk up the High Street indicated by the sign post. At the prominent electricity supported pole, turn left down the tarmac drive leading to the Church Yard. Follow the path right after the lychgate and pass around the church to leave by the southern lychgate. Carry straight on under the trees, then cross the road near the cul de sac sign and turn right onto the walled minor road (old drovers' road) and continue on downhill on the footpath under the trees. Follow this footpath along with the wall on the left hand side and the Golf Course on your right.



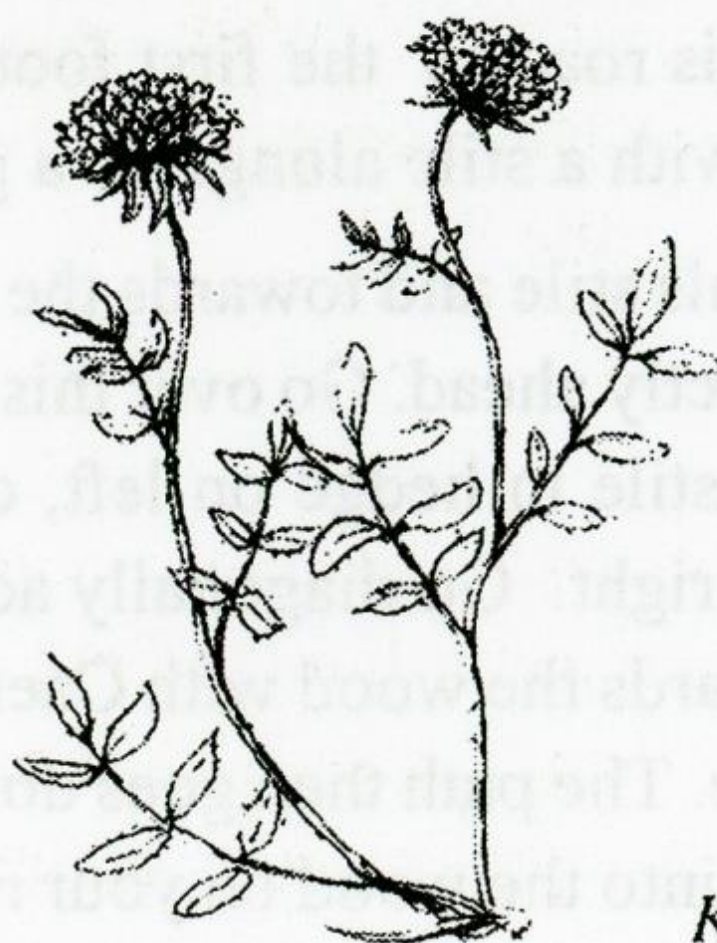
Keep on following the path downhill along the fence until you see the lake in the sand quarry on your left. Descend through the woods until you reach the stile with two stone gate pillars to its right. Cross this stile and follow the fence on your left until you reach the stile to the road.

After crossing the stile, turn right past the farm with an arch entrance and follow the road uphill, passing large boundary

boulders until you reach a footpath sign on the right hand side after about 400 to 500 yards. Turn right up this footpath and keeping alongside the fence ascend the hill on the edge of the woods. When you reach the top and see a double gate, cross the stile alongside them. Be careful here because the path leaves the fence and enters the woods. The stile is up a bank here to your left.

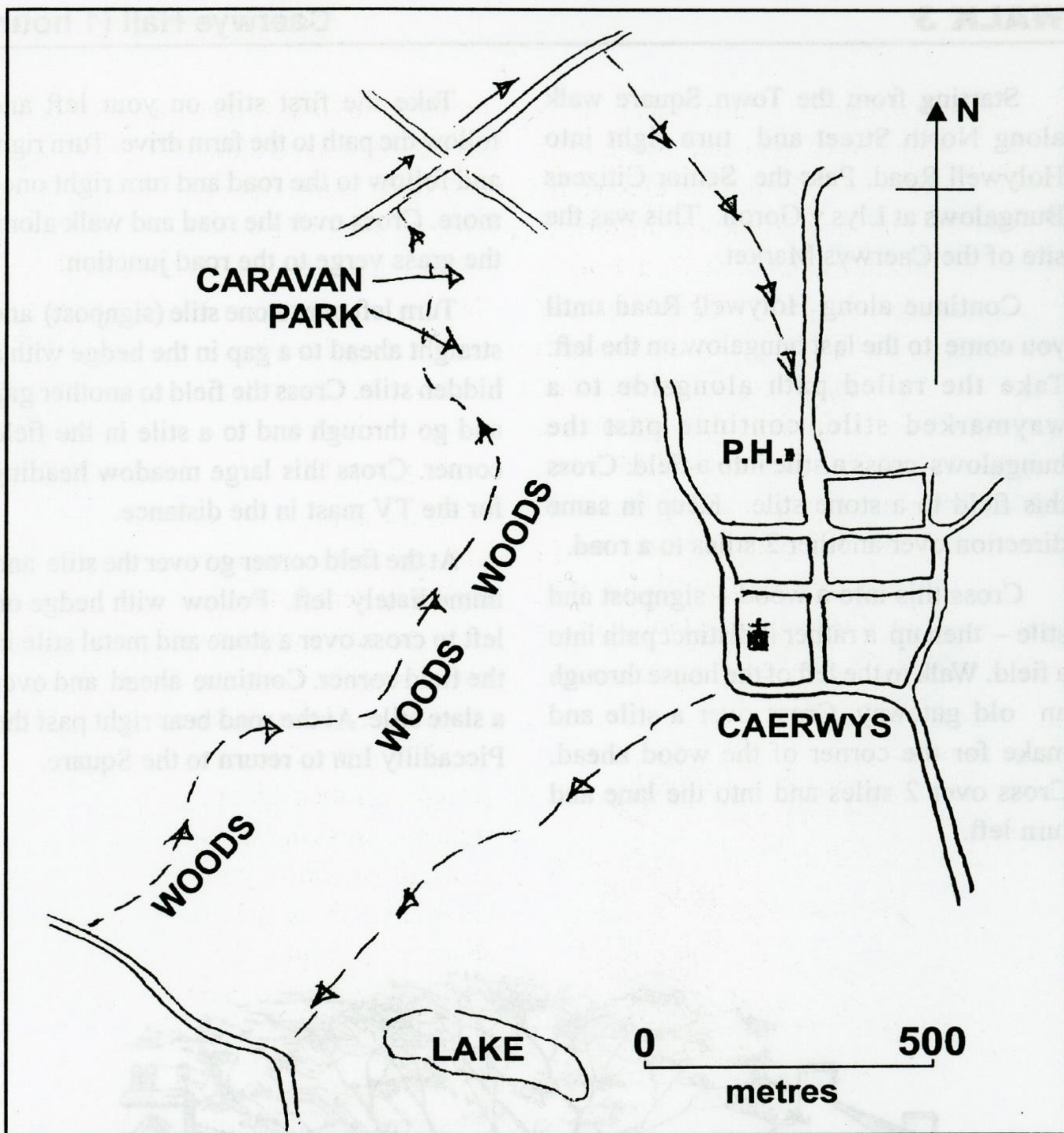
Once in the field walk along the edge of the woods with the fence on your right until you reach the top end of the field. Here the path curves away from the fence under some trees above a little old quarry. Cross this stile and keep straight on along the line of the fence to your right. Carry straight on then ignoring the stile to the right and cross the stile ahead and proceed straight on until you see some static caravans. Cross the stile here and turn sharp left, joining the tarmac drive that leads through the caravan camp to the entrance shop and gate.

Turn right and proceed to the crossroads. Cross the road and walk straight on for some 400 metres until you



*Kidney Vetch*

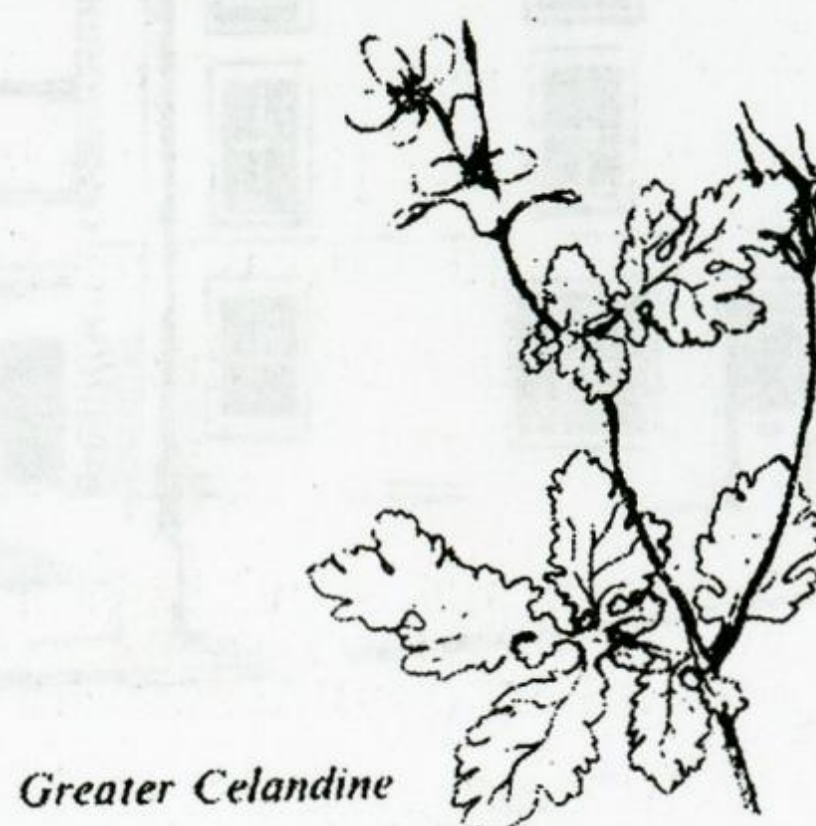




reach the footpath sign on the right hand side at Ty Uchaf farm. Walk across the farmyard to the gate and pass through the three gates into the field.

Walk straight on along the line of the hedge until you reach a crossing stile into the field on the right. Cross the stile and continue on the same line straight ahead to the stone stile. Cross this and carry straight on to the grassy lane ending in a slate slab stile. Cross this and you are back

on the main road leading to your right, back to the Square in Caerwys.



*Greater Celandine*



Starting from the Town Square walk along North Street and turn right into Holywell Road. Pass the Senior Citizens Bungalows at Llys y Goron. This was the site of the Caerwys Market.

Continue along Holywell Road until you come to the last bungalow on the left. Take the railed path alongside to a waymarked stile, continue past the bungalows cross a stile into a field. Cross this field to a stone stile. Keep in same direction over another 2 stiles to a road.

Cross this into a wood – signpost and stile – then up a rather indistinct path into a field. Walk to the left of the house through an old gateway. Cross over a stile and make for the corner of the wood ahead. Cross over 2 stiles and into the lane and turn left.

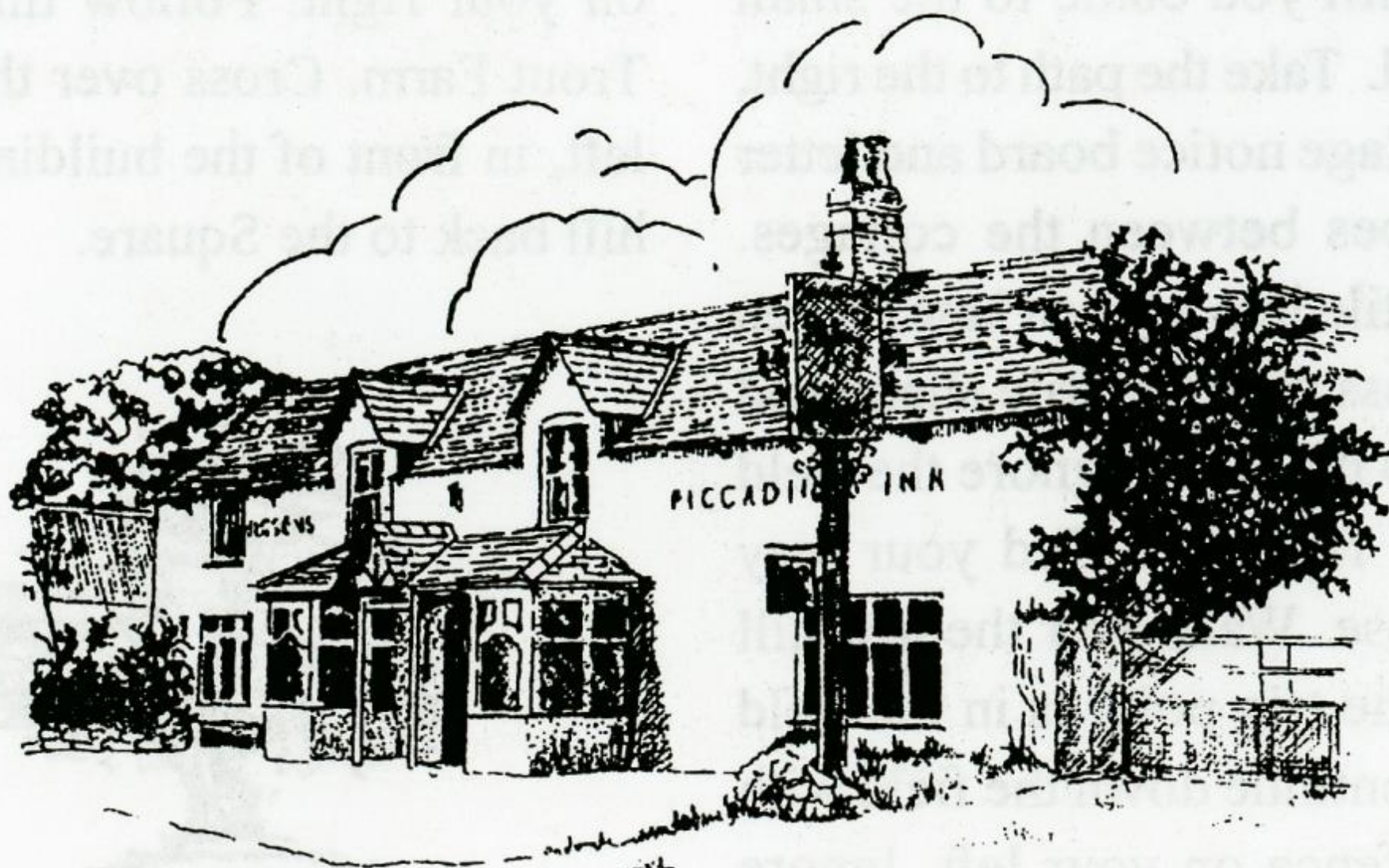
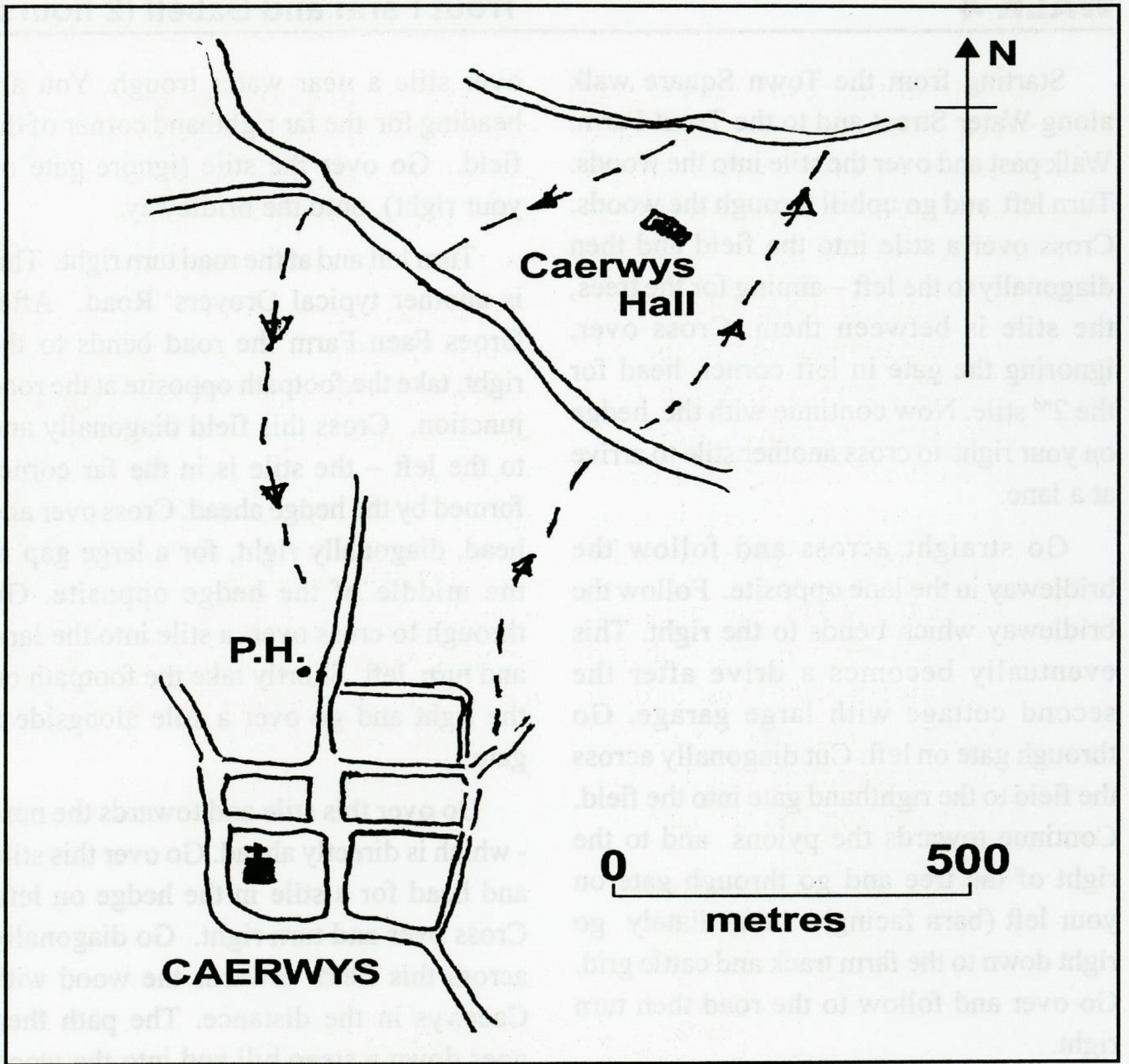
Take the first stile on your left and follow the path to the farm drive. Turn right and follow to the road and turn right once more. Cross over the road and walk along the grass verge to the road junction.

Turn left over stone stile (signpost) and straight ahead to a gap in the hedge with a hidden stile. Cross the field to another gap and go through and to a stile in the field corner. Cross this large meadow heading for the TV mast in the distance.

At the field corner go over the stile and immediately left. Follow with hedge on left to cross over a stone and metal stile in the field corner. Continue ahead and over a slate stile. At the road bear right past the Piccadilly Inn to return to the Square.







**PICCADILLY INN.**



## WALK 4

## Trout Farm and Babell (2 hours)

Starting from the Town Square walk along Water Street and to the Trout Farm. Walk past and over the stile into the woods. Turn left and go uphill through the woods. Cross over a stile into the field and then diagonally to the left – aiming for the trees, the stile is between them. Cross over, ignoring the gate in left corner, head for the 2<sup>nd</sup> stile. Now continue with the hedge on your right to cross another stile to arrive at a lane.

Go straight across and follow the bridleway in the lane opposite. Follow the bridleway which bends to the right. This eventually becomes a drive after the second cottage with large garage. Go through gate on left. Cut diagonally across the field to the righthand gate into the field. Continue towards the pylons and to the right of the tree and go through gate on your left (barn facing). Immediately go right down to the farm track and cattle grid. Go over and follow to the road then turn right.

Continue until you come to the small village of Babell. Take the path to the right, opposite the village notice board and letter box, which goes between the cottages. Cross over the stile into a green lane. When this runs out cross over the stile ahead and slightly left into the field. Ignore the field opening on the right and find your way through the copse. Walk over the low hill of Bryn Glas (the trig point is in the field on your left). Continue down the field with the hedge and fence on your left. Ignore the footpath going off to the left and go

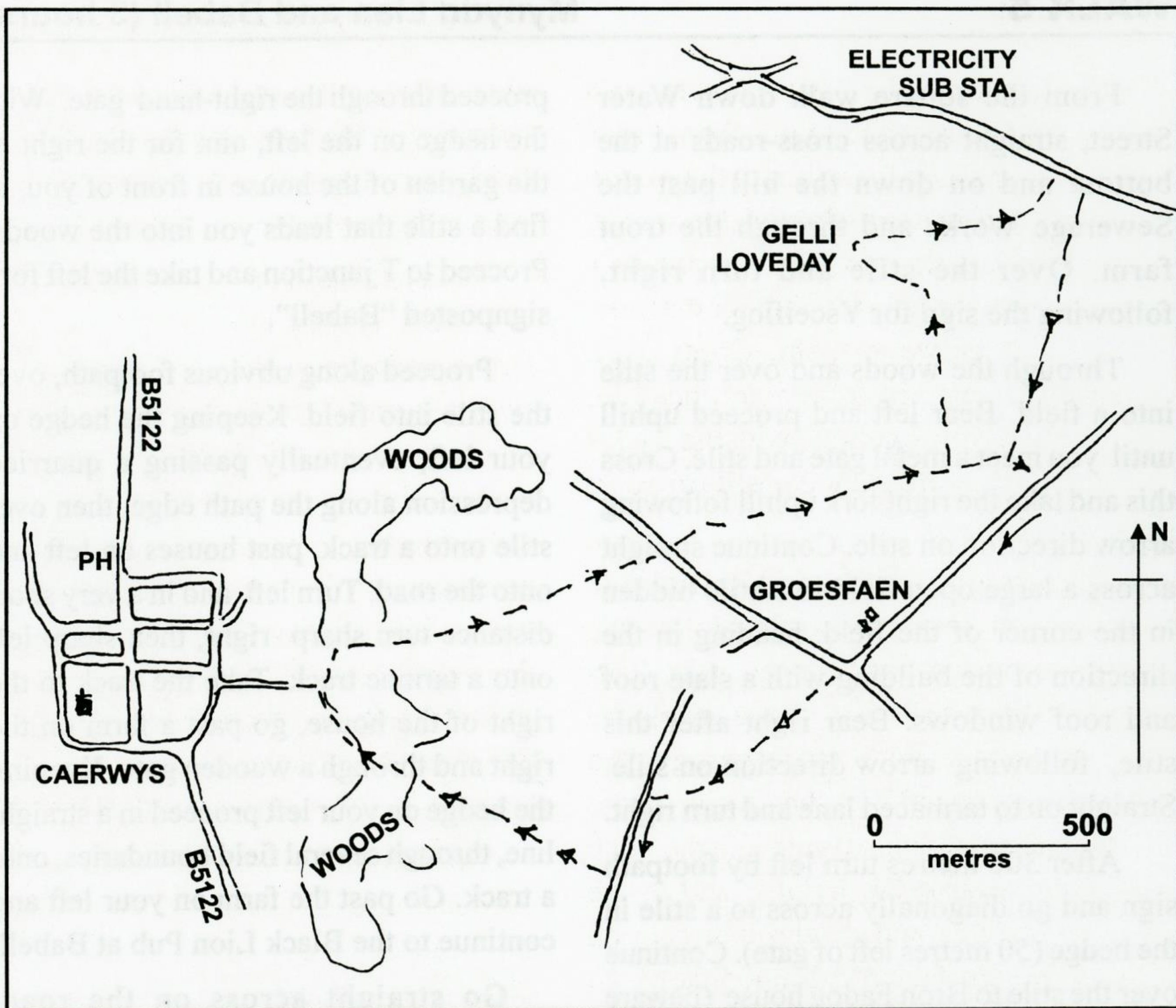
over stile a near water trough. You are heading for the far righthand corner of the field. Go over the stile (ignore gate on your right) onto the bridleway.

Turn left and at the road turn right. This is another typical Drovers' Road. After Groes Faen Farm the road bends to the right, take the footpath opposite at the road junction. Cross this field diagonally and to the left – the stile is in the far corner formed by the hedge ahead. Cross over and head, diagonally right, for a large gap in the middle of the hedge opposite. Go through to cross over a stile into the lane and turn left. Shortly take the footpath on the right and go over a stile alongside a gate.

Go over this stile and towards the next - which is directly ahead. Go over this stile and head for a stile in the hedge on left. Cross over and turn right. Go diagonally across this field towards the wood with Caerwys in the distance. The path then goes down a steep hill and into the wood on your right. Follow this round to the Trout Farm. Cross over the stile on your left, in front of the buildings, and up the hill back to the Square.









From the square walk down Water Street, straight across cross-roads at the bottom and on down the hill past the Sewerage Works and through the trout farm. Over the stile and turn right, following the sign for Ysceifiog.

Through the woods and over the stile into a field. Bear left and proceed uphill until you meet a metal gate and stile. Cross this and take the right fork uphill following arrow direction on stile. Continue straight across a large open field to a stile hidden in the corner of the field, heading in the direction of the building with a slate roof and roof windows. Bear right after this stile, following arrow direction on stile. Straight on to tarmaced lane and turn right.

After 300 metres turn left by footpath sign and go diagonally across to a stile in the hedge (50 metres left of gate). Continue over the stile to Bron Fadog house (beware of wooden leopard on the wall – or other wooden objects – the owner is a sculptor). Go down past the barn on the left and

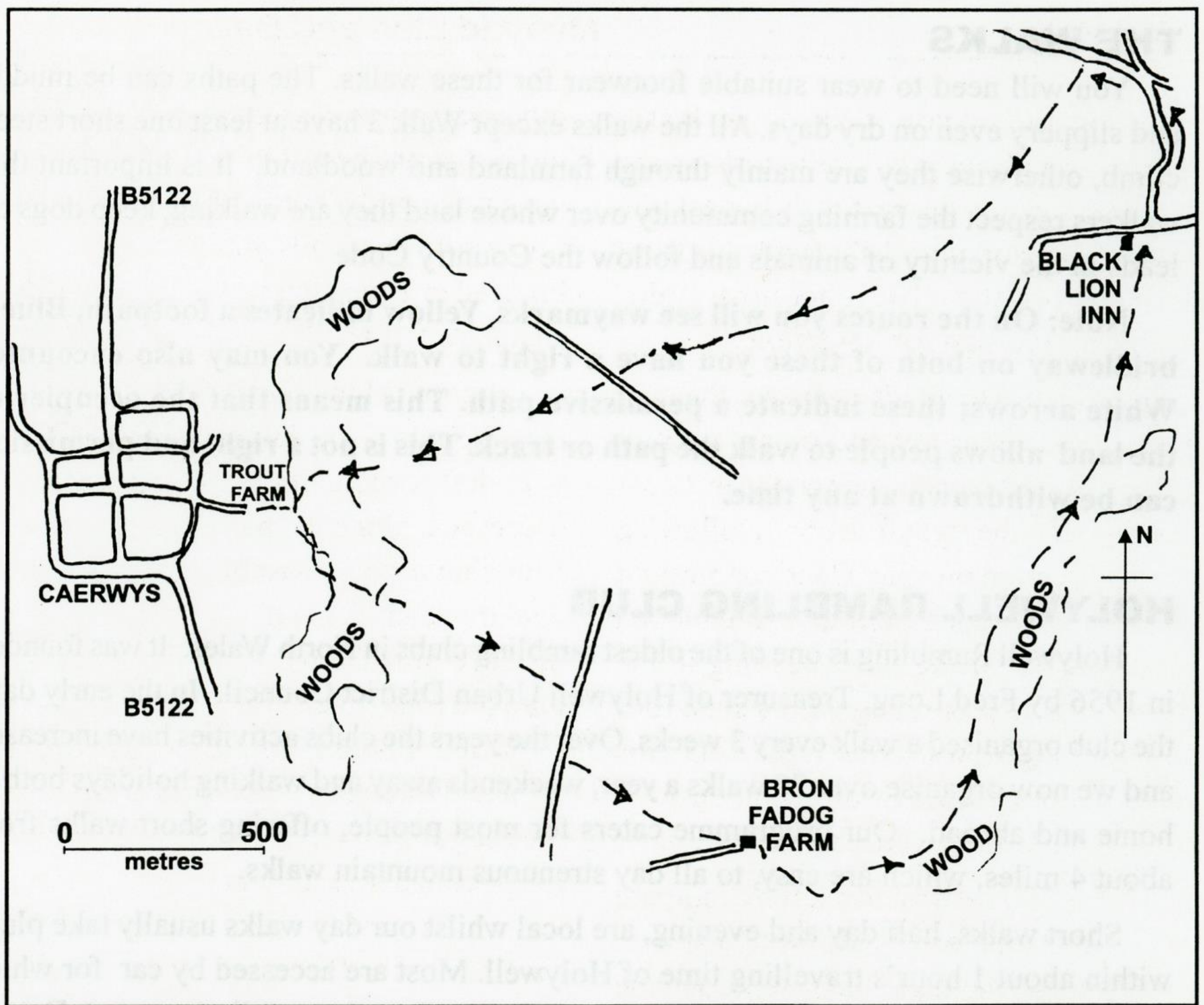
proceed through the right-hand gate. With the hedge on the left, aim for the right of the garden of the house in front of you, to find a stile that leads you into the woods. Proceed to T junction and take the left fork signposted “Babell”.

Proceed along obvious footpath, over the stile into field. Keeping the hedge on your left, eventually passing a quarried depression along the path edge, then over stile onto a track, past houses on left and onto the road. Turn left and in a very short distance turn sharp right, then sharp left onto a tarmac track. Take the track to the right of the house, go past a farm on the right and through a wooden gate. Keeping the hedge on your left proceed in a straight line, through several field boundaries, onto a track. Go past the farm on your left and continue to the Black Lion Pub at Babell.

Go straight across on the road, following sign for Gorsedd. After 300 metres fork left to go past a converted chapel. Take the path to the left, opposite







the village notice board and letter box, which goes between the cottages. Cross over the stile into a green lane. When this runs out cross over the stile ahead and slightly left into the field. Ignore the field opening on the right and find your way through the copse. Walk over the low hill of Bryn Glas (the trig point is in the field on your left) Continue down the field with the hedge and fence on your left. Ignore the footpath going off to the left and go over a stile near water trough. You are heading for the far righthand corner of the field. Go over the stile (ignore gate on your right) onto the bridleway.

Pass Hendy Farm, along green lane, to eventually reach a tarmaced lane. Go

straight across this lane and over stile and then down field with the hedge on your left. Over the next stile, then straight on over the field and over the next stile. Now keep straight on to reach a stile (not in view yet) on the edge of the woods. Over this and straight down the hill to the trout farm. (If you find that this is impossible, then you have crossed at the wrong stile – don't panic! Turn right and walk, in the woods, along the edge of the woods, past a pheasant breeding enclosure, and keep on until the next stile in the boundary is reached. Now go downhill to the trout farm). At the trout farm, go up and over the stile and then sprint up the hill, back to Caerwys.



## **THE WALKS**

You will need to wear suitable footwear for these walks. The paths can be muddy and slippery even on dry days. All the walks except Walk 3 have at least one short steep climb, otherwise they are mainly through farmland and woodland. It is important that walkers respect the farming community over whose land they are walking, keep dogs on leads in the vicinity of animals and follow the Country Code

**Note:** On the routes you will see waymarks, Yellow indicates a footpath, Blue a bridleway on both of these you have a right to walk. You may also encounter White arrows; these indicate a permissive path. This means that the occupier of the land allows people to walk the path or track. This is not a right and permission can be withdrawn at any time.

## **HOLYWELL RAMBLING CLUB**

Holywell Rambling is one of the oldest rambling clubs in North Wales. It was founded in 1956 by Fred Long, Treasurer of Holywell Urban District Council. In the early days the club organised a walk every 3 weeks. Over the years the clubs activities have increased and we now organise over 70 walks a year, weekends away and walking holidays both at home and abroad. Our programme caters for most people, offering short walks from about 4 miles, which are easy, to all day strenuous mountain walks.

Short walks, half day and evening, are local whilst our day walks usually take place within about 1 hour's travelling time of Holywell. Most are accessed by car for which we operate a car sharing scheme. We also arrange walks using public transport. Details of how to obtain a copy of the current programme and contacts are available at Holywell Library and on the Holywell Town Council Website.

## **THANKS**

The Club wishes to thank the members who have written the walks' descriptions, and have checked their accuracy. Members have also carried out practical work on the paths.

We also wish to thank Caerwys Town Council and Caerwys Civic Society for their financial support in the production of this booklet. The profits of this publication are to go to Caerwys Presbyterian Chapel of which Anne was an elder.



# **Clwb Cerddwyr Treffynnon Holywell Rambling Club**





*- and now a nice cup of tea.*