



Canal &  
River Trust

## MONTGOMERY CANAL HERITAGE WALK

LLANYMYNECH WHARF  
TO VYRNWY AQUEDUCT

2.5 mile circular walk

Starting point: Llanymynech  
Visitor Centre SY22 6EA



# Montgomery canal heritage walk



## Llanymynech Wharf to Vyrnwy Aqueduct

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Heritage Area is a separate entity but gives the background to the coming of the canal whose main purpose was to transport limestone.

The Romans mined lead and copper on Llanymynech Hill but there is no evidence that they extracted limestone although it's known that they used lime mortar.

Extraction really began in the early 18thC with the agricultural revolution and the improvement of soil by "liming" it. There are references to the local limestone industry in the second half of the 18thc by well-known travellers of that time [Rev Richard Pococke 1754; Thomas Pennant 1773; Rev Walter Davies 1795; Arthur Aikin 1796]

In 1791 there was a "Grand Plan" to link the rivers Mersey and Severn, and what we know today

as "The Montgomeryshire Canal" is made up of 4 canals built by several different companies between 1794 and 1819

– the Eastern and Western Montgomery canals, the Guilsfield Arm and the first canal – the Llanymynech Branch of the Ellesmere ran from Welsh Frankton to just short of Carreghofa Top Lock which was completed in 1796.



# Montgomery canal heritage walk



From there it was projected and built to Garthmyl where it ran out of money in 1797. It was another twenty years before it reached Newtown.

Llanymynech (just north of Carreghofa top lock) to Welsh Frankton was completed in 1796/7

The Eastern Branch from Carreghofa to Garthmyl was constructed around the same time and the two systems were joined.

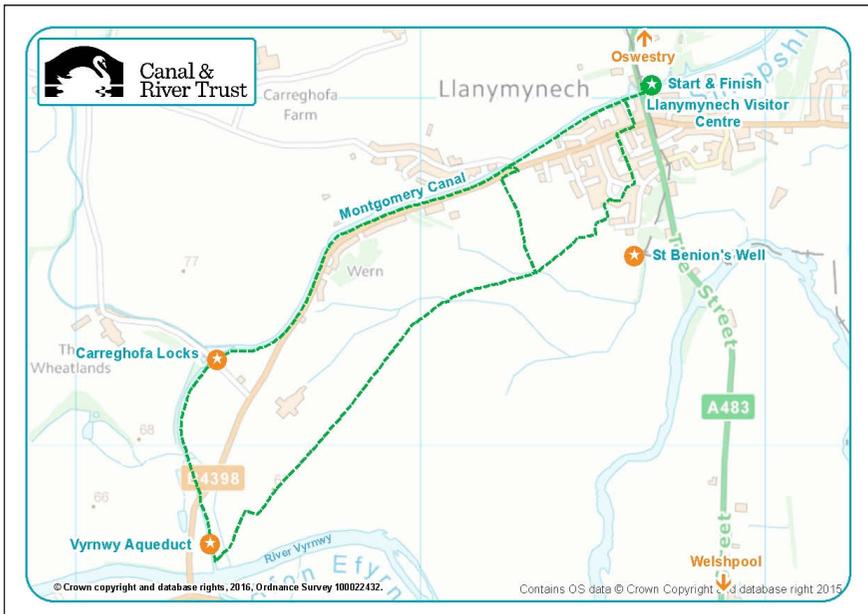
There is very little known of dates for the Burgedin to Guilsfield arm but it's believed to have been about the same

time as the Eastern. It stopped ~ 1 mile short of Guilsfield!

The Western Branch from Garthmyl to Newtown did not happen until 1815, and although recorded as completed in 1819 it was probably not commercially operative until the end of 1821.

## Further information

There is a website called 'historypoints.org' which can be accessed by smart phones at a point by Carreghofa top lock and another approaching the Vyrnwy Aqueduct.



**PRACTICALITIES**

**Parking**

1. The Llanymynech Heritage Area car park by the wharf.
2. The village car park behind The Dolphin Inn, right at the back by the canal.

**Terrain**

The walk is roughly 2½ miles evenly divided between the towpath to the Vyrnwy

Aqueduct and the return across fields. There are some steep steps down off the aqueduct but there is a handrail.

A couple of fields towards the end of the return leg tend to be boggy and possibly very muddy depending on the weather and whether there are/have been cows in them – boots essential.



**TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE RESTORATION OF THE MONTGOMERY CANAL, GO TO [WWW.CANALRIVERTRUST.ORG.UK/MONTGOMERY](http://WWW.CANALRIVERTRUST.ORG.UK/MONTGOMERY), WHERE YOU WILL ALSO FIND OUT MORE ACTIVITIES UNDER "WHAT IS GOING ON IN NWB"**



SUPPORT THE RESTORATION OF THE MONTGOMERY CANAL  
[HTTP://RESTORETHEMONTGOMERYCANAL.UK](http://RESTORETHEMONTGOMERYCANAL.UK)

ENJOY YOUR WALK

With thanks to Ruth Allcock for her input ant to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

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