

10 March 2013

Magor to Pencoed Castle via Penhow and the St Brides Valley

On Sunday 10th March fourteen walkers from Lower Wye Ramblers peregrinated part of the area of Monmouthshire bordered by in the south the M4 and north the A48. Starting from Magor Square, they walked along not so muddy fields (thank goodness!) to view the derelict Pencoed Castle, stopping for a coffee, whilst looking at the now roofless Columbarium (Pigeon loft).

They continued towards Penhow passing through Penhow trust wildlife wood, to emerge upon a small rise to see the knoll that houses the now private Penhow Castle and the church, a picturesque spot to view all the countryside with views towards Llanvaches and Grey Hill. After a short lunch break and a quick look at the interior of the pretty church the walkers turned towards St Brides, along the valley bottom, stopping briefly to view St Bridget's church which is adjacent to, according to the OS map, an abandoned medieval village.

Then a short but rocky in places climb through the wood to Common-y-Coed, where once upon the top good view across the Severn were seen, then returning along country road and footpaths back to the start.

This was an unseasonably cold walk for March; but with interesting historic buildings and good surrounding views.