



## Usk Walk details

**Distance:** Approx 3 miles

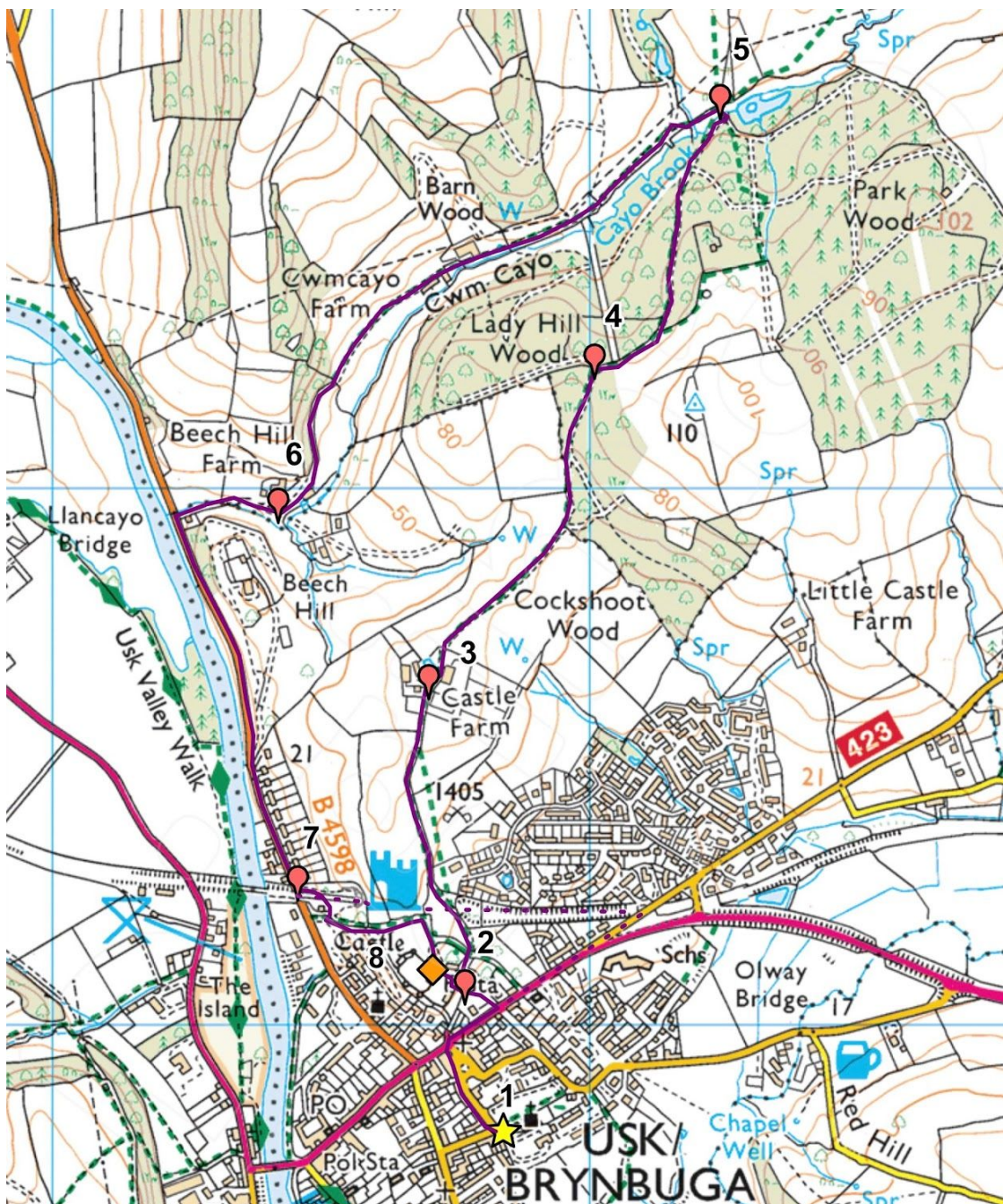
**Time:** Approx 2 hours

**Access:** Easy-moderate difficulty, mostly footpaths, some stiles; suitable for children; not suitable for wheelchairs or buggies; suitable footwear recommended.

**Parking:** Many car parks in Usk, including free parking at [Maryport Street North](#) and [Maryport Street South](#).



## Walking Route





## Directions

1. Start your walk at St Mary's Priory Church on the corner of Church Street and Priory Street. *St Mary's was founded in 1154 by Richard de Clare and was the priory church of a Benedictine nunnery. Inside the church you will find the memorial brass of Ada of Usk (c. 1352-1430), who was born at Usk Castle.* After visiting the church, turn right onto Priory Street, leading on to Twyn Square, *walking past the Clock Tower on your right, which commemorates the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria (1887).* Turn right onto Castle Parade, carefully crossing the road to use the pavement on the far side. Continue walking up Castle Parade and turn left when you reach the signposts to *Usk Castle*.
2. When you reach Castle House, take the footpath on your right beyond the car park, signposted to *Pwll Melyn*, leading away from the Castle (you will have the opportunity to visit the castle on your return). *In 1405, Owain Glyndwr's army carried out an unsuccessful assault on the English forces at Usk Castle. The English garrison then defeated the Welsh at the Battle of Pwll Melyn.* Continue along this track until you reach Castle Farm.
3. At Castle Farm, take the track on your right, following the footpath waysigns. Cross over the stile or use the gate to continue straight ahead up this track. This track will lead you gently uphill and into Lady Hill Wood. When you enter the woods, keep to the left, following the footpath waysigns and passing a pond on your left.
4. Shortly after the pond, take the track to the right. Climb the stile and take the path ahead, which leads out of the woods. Follow the path as it skirts the edge of the wood and then take the stile on the left back into the woods. Continue on this footpath, crossing a forest road, until you reach Cayo Brook.
5. Cross the brook at the bridge. *A short detour up the slope to your right you will see a small waterfall and a large pond.* Immediately after the bridge turn left onto the track, keeping the brook on your left. Continue ahead on this track. Pass through a gate and bear left to continue on this track until you reach a set of farm buildings. Continue along the track through the farmyard until you reach Beech Hill Farm.
6. At Beech Hill Farm House turn right, cross the brook via the bridge, and follow the road down onto Abergavenny Road (B4598). At Abergavenny Road, cross carefully to the footpath on the opposite side and turn left. *Here you will see the River Usk to your right – learn more about this important Welsh river in Newport's Natural World entry.* Follow Abergavenny Road, eventually turning right onto a footpath alongside the river. Eventually the path will rejoin the road. Follow the pavement to the right.



7. Pass under the old railway bridge. Immediately after the bridge, take the footpath that appears on the opposite side of the road (your left). Follow the footpath signposted 'Old Station Walk'. Here, you can either take the steps on your right, then follow the signposts back to Usk Castle, or you can follow the path around to your left, then right, and take the 'Old Station Walk' through the long-abandoned railway tunnel (this option is not recommended for those who are afraid of the dark!). If you choose to take the Old Station Walk, walk through the railway tunnel and follow the path that leads along the old railway line. Follow the railway line until you reach another short tunnel. Take the steps up to the left to come out onto Monmouth Road, at which point you turn right and head back towards Castle Parade and Usk Castle (marked as dotted red line on map).
8. Finish your walk at Usk Castle. *Usk Castle dates back to around 1130, although William Marshal carried out significant building work to strengthen the castle during the reign of Henry III.*