



UPPER HOUSE FARM WALKS

Long Barn and Hayloft cottages are part of Upper House Farm, an ancient 70 acre hill farm, nestled underneath Black Hill, of Bruce Chatwin Fame. We would like to share it's special setting and features with you and have created a number of walks over the land to make this easier.

The walks are divided into three distinct sections. The area below Upper House Farm (UHF) is marked with red stakes and red tops on styles and fence posts. The area immediately above UHF is marked in blue and the area above the ancient drover's road is marked in yellow. You can wander freely between fields and markers and connect the different walks together to make a longer or shorter stroll. Alternative routes and short cuts are also marked. If at any time you wish to return to UHF, when on the red route, simply follow the marker posts uphill, when on the blue or yellow route, simply follow the markers downhill.

Please be aware that UHF is a working farm where sheep are grazed in most area's. The last few years we have planted thousands of trees to create wild life area's and restore ancient woodland. It is therefore important that you ***leave gates as you find them***: if a gate is closed, this is to keep sheep out of the tree plantations. If a gate is open, this is to give sheep access to water.

Please be aware that the ground is uneven and can be slippery and muddy when wet. Some sections of the route are very steep, so be mindful and stay within your own abilities while walking.

The routes lead to many special places on UHF, ideal for a picnic or just to sit, rest, take in the views and the beauty around you.

- On the **red route**, you will find an ancient well with three springs, adjacent to an old Welsh Long House: Hollywell and Hollywell cottage. You will also come across a medieval lane to the 'Hendre' a low stone building, currently in use as a shelter for the sheep, the old winter residence for the hill farmers. You will encounter several streams, please use the bridges with caution, especially in the wet.
- The **blue route** takes you through steep, young tree plantations on the hillside, leading to the ancient drover's road. At the top of the walk, you will find an old stand of trees, perfect for a breather in the shade, and to enjoy the views.
- Across the drover's road starts the **yellow route** in the upper fields, on the side of Black Hill, locally known as The Cat's Back. This is a wonderful ridge on the border of Wales and well worth exploring for the spectacular views. If you follow the drover's road to the left, you get to the car park at the base of the climb. You will find a local OS map in the cottages to help you plan your route.

The yellow route leads you past Elsie's Cottage, the remnants of an old stone building where Elsie the 'Hedgewitch' used to live. She was a herbalist and healer. It is truly a special place.

The walk leads you up to an ancient path and the area where three springs emerge from the side of the hill. Continuing your walk you will come to a bronze age burial mound and remnants of stone structures. From here you wander down again, crossing streams, until you get back to the drover's road.

If you want to extend your walk, you can turn left onto the drover's road and rather than turning right towards UHF, you can go straight ahead onto a bridleway which leads you to the base of Hay's Bluff. From here, you can walk up to Hay's Bluff and back along the ridge of Black Hill and back down to UHF. This is a long but stunning walk! Use the OS map to guide you.

This map includes an area around UHF, to include public footpaths marked in green, for some shorter circular walks.

We hope you will enjoy our surroundings as much as we do. Dogs are welcome off lead on the walking routes, but need to be leashed when crossing grazing areas with sheep. If you have any questions about the walks, the walking routes in the area or the history of Upper House Farm, please ask, we love to share it with you.

DISCLAIMER: walking at UHF is at your own risk. The owner accepts no responsibility for any errors, omissions, or inaccuracies - or for any loss or injury that could result.