

Parks & Gardens

ABERGAVENNY

..JUST A FEW OF THE
PARKS AND GARDENS OF
ABERGAVENNY

Parks & Gardens

TRAIL DIRECTIONS

1 Walk from the Tourist Information Centre at the Tithe Barn onto Monk Street. Turn right and continue up the road on this side away from the shops. Cross Lower Monk Street, go past the garage, and cross at the pedestrian crossing to the gates of Bailey Park. Walk in through the imposing gates.

Just inside the gates on the left is an information board about the WW1 tank that used to stand here.

The wrought iron gates to Bailey Park were made in 1884 and stand between two massive multicoloured stone piers.

The park was laid out in 1884 by Crawshaw Bailey (1841 – 1187) a prominent ironmaster. After his death, the trustees continued the upkeep. The Abergavenny Improvement Commissioners bought the land with help from the Crawshaw Bailey family. Later the Local Authority took over. The green History Point here will tell you more on your mobile phone.



Events held here include the Shire Horse Show, the Steam Fair, the Welsh Warrior Festival, town fairs and many more.

In 1913, suffragettes set fire to the Pavilion at the National Eisteddfod held here.

Walk up the right-hand path to the top of the Park. There is a fine view of the Deri, with its oak wood, on the hill behind.

Turn left and walk around the path to reach the other side of the Park and the bowling green.

The chestnut trees near the children's playground and possibly the oak trees further on were planted from saplings grown from seeds from Verdun battlefield to form a Peace Grove after WW1.

It is hoped to restore this area further for recreation, but the Bowling Green, laid in 1922, is flourishing. Bowls is one of the oldest traditional British outdoor pastimes, here played on a level pitch, rather than the crown bowls played in the more northern regions.

2 3 Walk down the path, admiring the octagonal bandstand to your left and the flower beds to your right.

The pretty gardens to your right are looked after by the Friends of Bailey Park. They trace the outlines of the outdoor swimming pool, with a paddling pool and fountain, which was opened in 1938. After being kept open by the Friends who ran a café and raised money for repairs, it had to be closed in 1966.



4 At the bottom of this path, take the exit to your right. Walk towards and cross at the pedestrian crossing. Walk through the pedestrianised Cibi Walk.



Look for the shepherd and his sheep in the centre, a reminder of the historic importance of wool and flannel in this area.

5 At the end, turn left, cross into the pedestrianised area and at the corner of High Street and Nevill Street (by Shackleton's chemist, one of the oldest businesses in the town), walk along Nevill Street to the end.

Nevill Street is full of interesting old buildings. Many of them on the right are 16th Century with new Georgian fronts. Look at the ceramic and blue plaques that give more information. www.abergavennystreetsurvey.co.uk gives more information about the houses.

6 Turn right by the King's Arms. Cross to look at the ceramic plaque of Tudor Gate and walk along Tudor Street, passing the entrances to two car parks, until you reach the entrance to Linda Vista Gardens on the left.

This was the private garden of Linda Vista villa, built in 1875 by a family who made their money in South America. It changed ownership in 1901, and again in 1925 when it was acquired by the Whitehead family who also owned a steel works at Ebbw Vale. In 1957 they sold the garden to the Abergavenny Corporation for use as a public park. After this, the District Council added further land to the west and south



(Castle Meadows) which extended the garden.

7 Walk down the path, the tree planting on left is with commemorative trees. Walk over to the right, past the story-telling woodland area to look at the willow arch and the specimen trees. Then walk over to the left to admire the planting. Take the wooden raised path around the lower part of the garden.



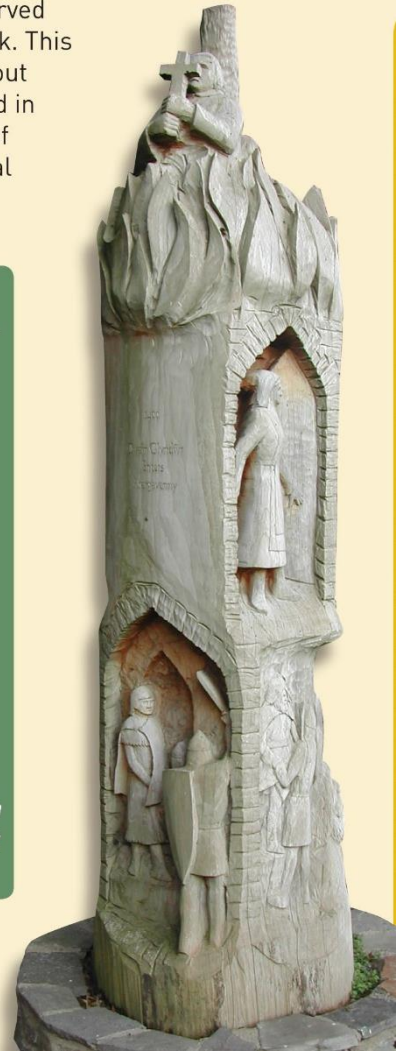
Linda Vista Gardens is a well-preserved and richly-planted urban public park. This is demonstrated in the intricate layout of the formal part of the garden, and in the exceptional quality and variety of the planting, which includes unusual specimen trees and shrubs.

8 Walk along the lower path and climb up the walkway. At the top, turn left to reach the carving.

The carving, made from a felled garden tree, shows three scenes from the history of Abergavenny, as detailed on the information board.

Walk back to the entrance at the top of the boardwalk and turn left across the car park to the path leading back up to Tudor Street, through the small car park at the top. This path follows the original route into Abergavenny from the Usk river crossing.

You can turn right here to Castle Meadows and walk across the meadows to the bridge across the Usk and follow the river downstream to the path which takes you up to the Castle. It is uneven and can be muddy and extends the walk by about 40 minutes.



9 Walk back along Tudor Street, continuing past the Castle Street Car Park on the right.

The Castle Street Car Park was once a sheep market (Blue Plaque) and long before that a Roman fort (Ceramic Plaque).



Entrance to the Castle is free. Go in through the gate and follow past the remains of the Great Hall on the right, through the wall in front. The small Victorian Garden is on your left.

This garden was created and is looked after by the Abergavenny Local History Society.

Information boards around the site tell you the history of the Castle. You can also visit the (free) Museum.

10 Walk back to the entrance to the Castle and turn left. Go around the outside of the Castle walls until you reach the steps. *This is not suitable for mobility scooters. The alternative is to retrace your route to Castle Street and go right down Castle Street (Lower) to Cross Street and down the hill to Mill Street.*

To your right are trees which are part of the Castle Meadows Conservation area, and as you approach Mill Street, a community orchard.

Go down the steps to Mill Street and turn left.

At the end of the road turn right towards the pedestrian crossing. Cross to the entrance of Swan Meadows.

Mill Street was the original way in from the South-East over the Gavenny River which joins the Usk just below here.

Swan Meadows, with the bus station, was called Tenter Fields, where Abergavenny flannel was stretched on tenterhooks.

11 You can look at the Eisteddfod stones in Swan Meadows and the Gavenny River, entering and returning by the entrance here.

The stones from the 1913 Eisteddfod were moved here, and later commemorated by the standing stones showing the part played by Lady and Lord Llanover in promoting the Welsh language and culture.



12 Leaving Swan Meadows walk up towards the entrance to the Bus Station/Car Park. If you continue up this road you can visit other interesting places in Abergavenny: Gunter Mansion on the right of Cross Street and further up, the Market Hall.

Gunter Mansion (blue plaque) is probably 16th Century. The Market Hall is interesting and has fabulous decorations from the Food Festival – well worth a visit.



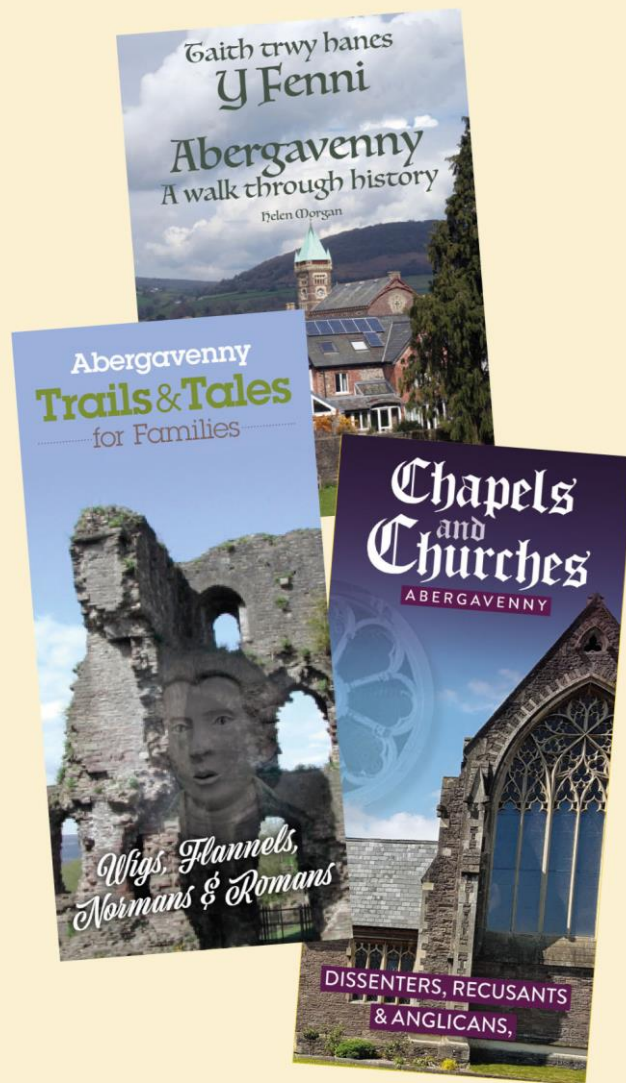


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ABERGAVENNY

Abergavenny is surrounded by hills and beautiful countryside. Walking routes are available from the Tourist Information Centre. Castle Meadows, with the River Usk flowing through it, provides a level area with paths and seating. It is accessible by paths from Linda Vista Gardens and below the castle, as well as from across the river by bridge.

TRY SOME OF OUR OTHER WALKS & TRAILS AROUND ABERGAVENNY!



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Abergavenny Local History Society

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