



LLANDUDNO

area walks

Broaden your horizons...

- Three circular walks
- From Llandudno to the surrounding area
- Panoramic views



This guide gives you information about three different walks from Llandudno to the surrounding countryside, towns and villages. Along with directions for each walk, there is interesting information about the history, wildlife and geography you see while you are walking. There is a map for each walk and a location map to help you find your way.

HOW TO GET HERE

By train: There are regular train services to Llandudno. For information about trains to Llandudno, please phone the National Train Enquiry Line on: 08457 484950 or visit: www.nationalrail.co.uk (See the map for where the train station and start of the walks are).

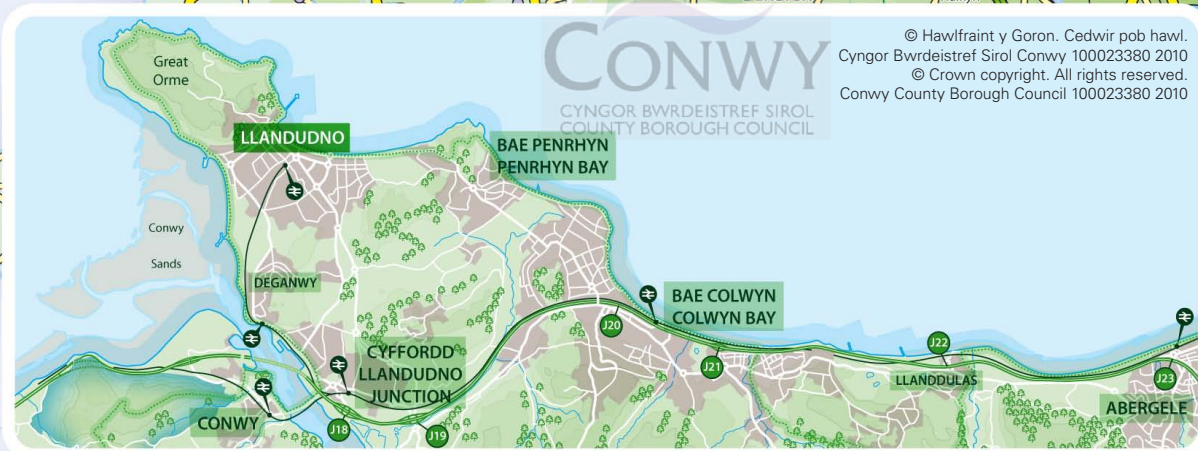
By bus: There are regular services to Llandudno. For information on services please phone Traveline Cymru on 0870 608 2 608 or visit: www.traveline-cymru.org.uk You can also phone the Public Transport Enquiry Line on 01492 575412. (Bus stops are shown on the map).

By car: Leave the A55 at junction 19 to follow the A470 into Llandudno.



↑ **Route 1:** View of the Little Orme from the promenade

↶ **Please follow The Countryside Code**
Respect • Protect • Enjoy





Route 1: Little Orme

Walk Information

A circular walk starting from Llandudno promenade and taking you to the summit of the Little Orme (141 metres) for full views of the coast, mountains and rural Conwy.

Terrain: flat, uneven, steep in places and close to some cliff edges.

Distance: 5.1 kilometres, 3.2 miles.

Time: about two hours.

Paths: surfaced, pavement, grass, and rocky. Some kissing gates.

Dogs: Please keep dogs under close control at all times.

Map: Explorer OL17.

Start and finish grid reference:

SH: 799822, Llandudno promenade.

Refreshments: available in Llandudno, Craig y Don and Penrhyn Bay.

Parking: Roadside along the promenade.

BE PREPARED. Check the weather forecast before you go. Wear strong walking boots and take suitable clothing and refreshments with you.



View from point 3: the summit of the Little Orme looking over Bodafon fields and the hill of Nant y Gamar, with the Carneddau mountains in the background.

Llandudno

Llandudno is named after the 6th century Saint Tudno. St Tudno's church, on the Great Orme, was originally built in the 6th century and later replaced in the 12th century. Parts of the church you see today date from the 12th century.

The town is a purpose-built Victorian seaside resort developed by the Mostyn family in the late 1840s. The history of the Mostyn family has been closely connected with the development of Llandudno for the past 500 years. They are still involved in the development and conservation of this area today. In Victorian times it was fashionable to visit the seaside for fresh air. By 1858 the railway had been built and made it easier for visitors to get to Llandudno. Today people come to visit the town for its shops, promenade, attractions such as the Great Orme and to walk in its spectacular countryside.

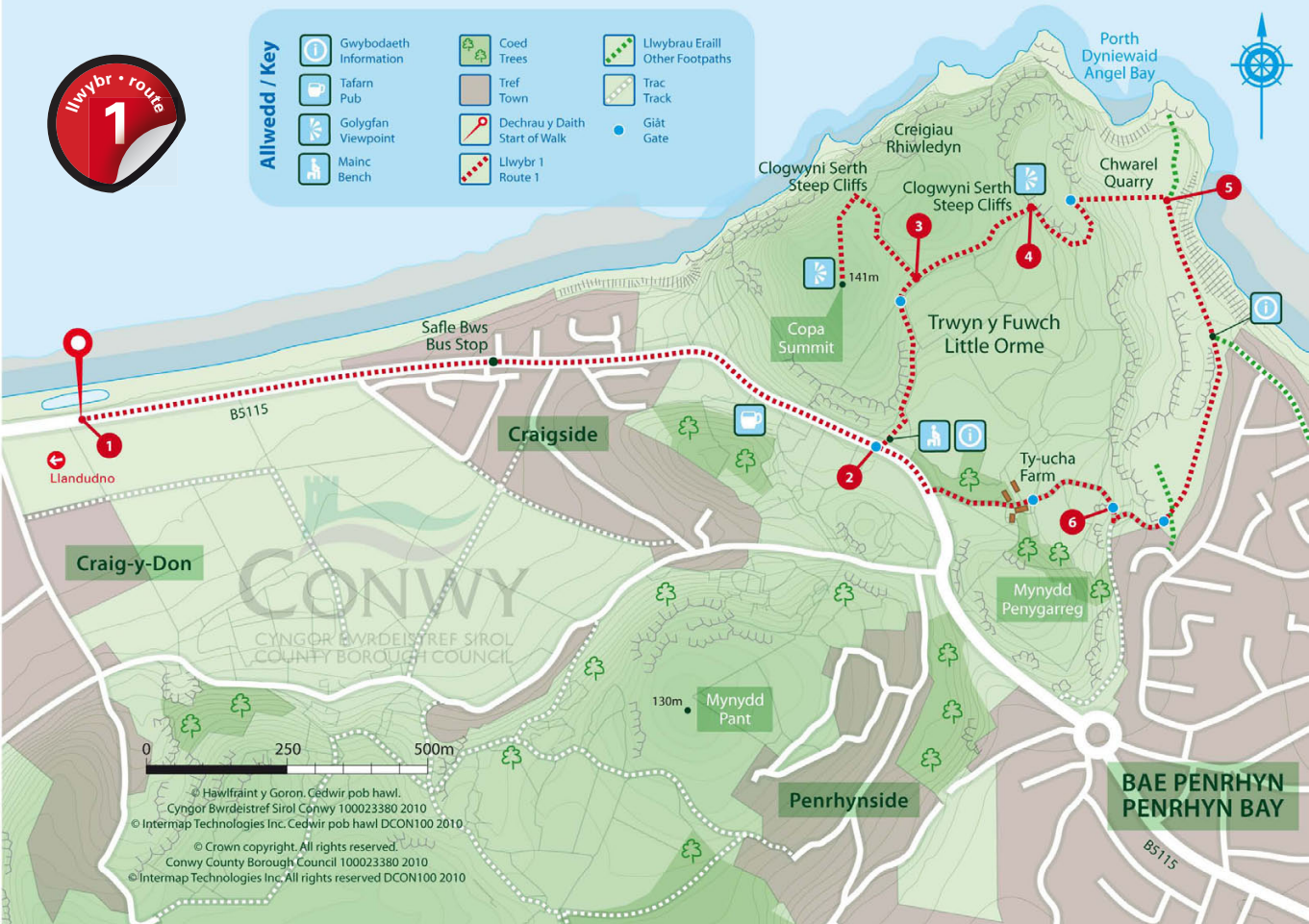
The three walks included in this booklet will take you out of town and into the surrounding countryside. The hills immediately surrounding the town are part of a large network of limestone grassland along the coast of central Conwy. The county has one of the largest percentages of this habitat in Wales, making this area special.





Allwedd / Key

- Gwybodaeth Information
- Tafarn Pub
- Golygfan Viewpoint
- Mawnc Bench
- Coed Trees
- Tref Town
- Dechrau y Daith Start of Walk
- Llwybr 1 Route 1
- Llwybrau Eraill Other Footpaths
- Trac Track
- Gât Gate

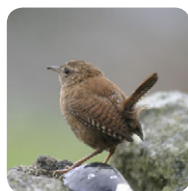


You will follow the North Wales Path (NWP) for most of this route except when you visit the top and the last kilometre of the route.

1 From Llandudno promenade continue along the pavement on the sea-ward side towards Craigside (see map). Continue up and past the houses. As the ground levels out, keep an eye out for a kissing gate on your left.

2 Go through the gate to follow the North Wales Path on the right. Take a minute to look at the information panel. Keep right, after about 400 metres go through a kissing gate. Continue to a large open space with a path turning off to the left and a NWP post ahead.

As you walk along the path you will pass a variety of prickly hedgerow plants such as brambles, hawthorn, and blackthorn. They provide a welcome home for nesting birds such as the blackbird, song thrush, chaffinch, dunnock, robin and wren. In autumn the berries on the plants are food for these birds. Also keep a look out for blue, great, coal and long-tailed tits and in winter visiting birds such as the redwing.



↑ Wren



↑ Hawthorn



↑ North Wales Path waymarker which you will see along most of this route.

3 To visit the summit, turn left here. Continue ahead for 200 metres to a post. Turn left again to make your way to the trig point (concrete marker) at the top. **Take care near steep cliff edges.**

From here you will have fantastic views. With the sea behind you, from left to right you will see the coastal towns of Rhyl, Colwyn Bay and Rhos on Sea. Ahead is Nant y Gamar with the Conwy Valley, the Carneddau and other mountains of Snowdonia in the background. On your right, the coastal towns of Penmaenmawr and Llanfairfechan hide between headlands in the distance. You can just see the Isle of Anglesey above the sea, with the town of Llandudno and the Great Orme headland closer by.

The countryside surrounding Llandudno is largely made up of limestone grassland. This can be seen clearly on the 'green hills' around you at the Great Orme, Nant y Gamar and the Little Orme. These are areas which are Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Heritage Coast, both of which are nationally important. The marine environment is also rich and varied.



↑ View of the Great Orme from the Little Orme.

Follow the same route back from the summit. Turn left to re-join the main route (NWP). Continue ahead on a grassy path through the gorse to follow a fence line on your right. (Don't follow a sheep track to your left.) As you approach the corner of the fence line, **take care as there are steep cliff drops ahead.**

4 Ahead and below, you will see the gate that you will be walking to. Turn to the right to follow the path along the fence line. Continue down and around to the left to get to the gate. Go through the gate to head down the grassy slope.

The cliffs, once quarried are now home to a lot of wildlife. In spring and summer they come alive with the sound of cackling gulls. Herring gulls, black-backed gulls and fulmars nest here. Nesting on the cliffs keeps them safe from a number of different predators.

Did you know?

Fulmars can smell fish oil from 15 miles away. They can also live up to 80 years old.



↑ **Point 4:** Looking down at the quarried cliff face. ↑ Fulmar

Route 2: Nant y Gamar

Walk Information

A circular walk starting from Craig y Don on one of the oldest roads in the area. You will circle the hill, passing Penrhynside with a panoramic view for miles around.

Terrain: gradual climbs through woodland and over limestone grassland. A fairly steep, grassy path downhill.

Distance: 5.9 kilometres, 3.7 miles.

Time: about two hours.

Paths: pavement, grass, woodland with some uneven ground. Kissing gates. One stone stile near the start of the walk.

Dogs: Please keep dogs under close control at all times.

Map: Explorer OL17.

Start and finish grid reference:

SH796813, Fferm Bach Road.

Refreshments: available in Craig y Don.

Parking: Roadside along Fferm Bach Road.

BE PREPARED. Check the weather forecast before you go. Wear strong walking boots and take suitable clothing and refreshments with you.



View from point 3: the summit of the Little Orme looking over Bodafon fields and the hill of Nant y Gamar, with the Carneddau mountains in the background.

5 At the bottom of the slope (old incline) you may want to turn left to visit Angel Bay before retracing your steps back to the bottom of the slope. Continue ahead to follow the main route. There will be a fence on your left and a large quarried area to your right. Go past the NWP turning on your left and information board on your right. Take a minute to look at the information board. At a footpath junction continue ahead to go through a kissing gate to a small lane. As you walk along the lane, keep an eye out for a turning on your right and a kissing gate. It's slightly hidden on a u-turn.

6 Go through the gate to follow the path through the woodland and keep left. As you approach a house, go through the gate to continue ahead past the house and buildings. Follow the driveway to the main road. Turn right to return to the start of the walk.



↑ Looking down at Angel Bay.

1 Looking up Fferm Bach Road, walk along the pavement on the left side to follow the road up and around to the left. Just after the corner, look across the road and you will see a sign: Fferm Bach Road and two driveways. **Cross the road carefully** and take the driveway/track on the right with a footpath signpost. Continue past the house and over a stone stile. Walk along the fence line past Fferm (Farm) on your right to the wooden railings and Snake Pit on your left.

Fferm Bach and Tan y Bryn roads are two of the oldest in the area. They joined Llanrhos to Penrhynside via Bodafon Road and Nant y Gamar Road which led from the quarries.

Just past the stile, keep an eye out through the trees on your left for the cliffs. The cliffs are good nesting places for gulls, fulmars and jackdaws. Sometimes you can see rabbits, foxes, jays and buzzards along the pathway. On your right, admire the view towards the two hills of the Vardre with Conwy Mountain and Tal y Fan in the distance.

Fferm is one of the earliest farm buildings in the area, dating from the about the 17th century.



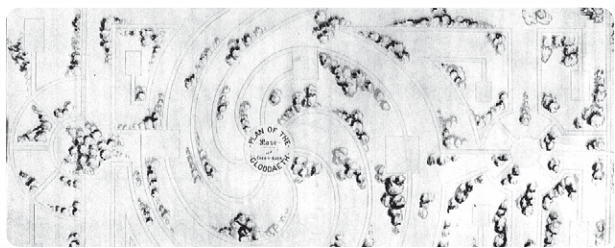
'The Snake Pit' takes its name from the shapes of broken branches lying about.

2 Continue to follow the fence line to meet a wall ahead of you and a footpath junction. Turn left to follow the path beside the wall and through a kissing gate. Continue through the woods (Coed y Gaer - Fortress woods) for 400 metres. Turn left along the track. Keep left to leave the track and follow the footpath to walk behind St David's College on your right.

The name Coed y Gaer (Gaer means fort in Welsh) suggests that it may hide a fort, but there is no evidence of this in the woods. There is evidence of hut circles which were probably lived in between 1000BC and 1000AD.

There is also evidence of a maze planted around 1700. In 1856, John Hicklen wrote in his Illustrated Hand Book of Llandudno 'the maze is larger than the one at Hampton Court but that it is in need of restoration...'

St David's College used to be known as Gloddaeth. The Mostyn family who are significant landowners in the area first owned this house in 1460. The present house dates from the 16th century.



↑ A drawing of the maze by George Felton from 1860 based on the 1742 map.

3 Continue through the woods for about 150 metres. Go through the kissing gate to follow a path marked by large concrete posts up and along the left side of the field.

As you walk up the field admire the view to your right (see the image below).

4 Go through a kissing gate to follow the path through the woods for about another 180 metres. At the boundary of the woods go through another kissing gate onto open grassland.

The open area ahead of you and Coed y Gaer are part of a Site of Special Scientific Interest. The open area in front of you is special because it is part of a larger network of limestone grassland across the coast of central Conwy. The County Borough of Conwy has one of the largest percentages of limestone grassland in Wales. Coed y Gaer is special as it is an upland mixed-ash wood. This is a type of woodland that grows in lime-rich soil. Look out for trees such as the ash, yew and wych elm.



↑ Juniper is a rare plant that likes to live on the limestone grassland. It is the berries of the juniper plants that are used to make gin.



↑ View looking over Ysgol y Creuddyn (school) in the foreground towards the town of Rhos on Sea. On the hill to the right you will see the church at Rhos on Sea and further right again is the tree-covered hill Bryn Euryn (not shown).

5 Turn right to follow the path alongside the wall. Head down, through a kissing gate and into the woods. At the corner of the wall go through the kissing gate. Take the highest path on your left to continue ahead. Continue across an open area and go through two more kissing gates in the woodland. As you approach the houses to your right, keep an eye out for a sharp left turn back on yourself through the gorse. (If you come to a kissing gate in a corner leading onto a road, you have gone too far).



6 To start, keep left through the gorse and then continue for about 200 metres to a gate (don't go through it though) and fence line.

Across the fields you will see an old windmill. It was originally built for Sir Roger Mostyn sometime between 1617 and 1642.

7 Continue with the fence line/wall to your left. At an opening, admire views of Llandudno and the Great Orme. Go through a kissing gate on your left to go past the houses. Continue down to join a track. Stop at the first corner and a gate to your left.

The fields you will see near the shore are Bodafon Fields. Over the years many proposals have been put forward for this site to be developed. So far, they are still 'Bodafon Fields'.

8 Go through the gate to follow the bridleway for about 200 metres. (Horse riding is allowed on this section.) Go through a gate and cross a narrow road. Go through another gate to follow a footpath. As the path bends to the left and into the woods, keep left along the higher path.

The white house and buildings you will see through the trees below you is Bodafon Hall and Farm. The present hall is Grade Two Listed, which dates from the 18th century.

9 Keeping left, walk up some steps to continue up with a wall on your left. As you leave the woods for an open area, keep right along a path near a fence line. Continue for about 200 metres to meet a road and track.

10 Turn right onto the road. Just past the double gates on your left, take a left turn to follow a private road past the houses. At the end of the track, stay to the left and go up onto an open area. Continue ahead keeping close to the fence line on your right.

11 At the corner of the fence line, continue ahead to a signpost and admire the views along the coast and down the valley. Follow the footpath down the slope to the wall. Turn right to retrace your footsteps back to the start of the walk.

Route 3:

Llanrhos & Deganwy

Walk Information

A circular walk from Llanrhos along an ancient trackway to visit the site, on the Vardre where Deganwy Castle once stood.

Terrain: Some gradual slopes and uneven ground.

Distance: 3.6 kilometres, 2.2 miles.

Time: about one hour.

Paths: pavement, grass, surfaced tracks. Can be muddy depending on the weather. Stiles and gates.

Dogs: Please keep dogs under close control at all times.

Map: Explorer OL17.

Start and finish grid reference:

SH789800, Bryn Lupus Road, Llanrhos.

Refreshments: available in Llanrhos.

Parking: Roadside along Bryn Lupus Road.

BE PREPARED. Check the weather forecast before you go. Wear strong walking boots and take suitable clothing and refreshments with you.



↑ One of the two hills on the Vardre where Deganwy Castle once stood.

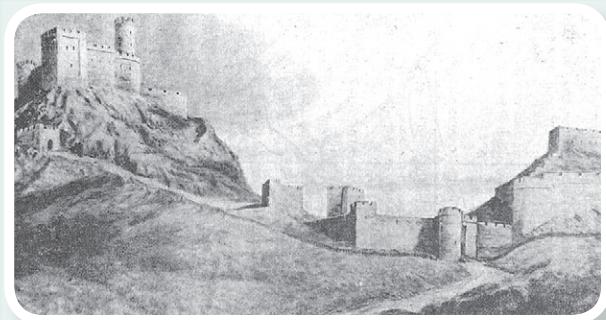
1 From the bus stop on Bryn Lupus Road, walk along the road towards the fields. Turn left down the driveway for Plas Dolau Farm. Follow the driveway around to the right to see a footpath sign ahead. Follow the footpath between the buildings and warden's house to pass a gate. At the next gate go over the stile to walk along the track to another stile.

You will notice that the surface of the track is lower than the fields on either side. This feature is known as a 'holloway' and is evidence of its ancient use as a route from the Vardre towards the east.

2 Go over the stile. Walk straight up and across the field, aiming between two small hills. As you cross the field you will see a fence line and stile. Go over the stile to follow the fence around to the right. At the next stile continue ahead (there will be bungalows on your right), until you meet a footpath from Maes y Castell (the estate of bungalows) on your right.

3 At this point turn so that the stile is behind you. Walk ahead aiming for the bottom right-hand side of the large flat-topped hill. (The image on this page and the map will help you find your way).

View from point 3: looking at the hills on the Vardre where Deganwy Castle once stood. The dotted line shows the direction of the walk route.



↑ Artists impression of how Deganwy Castle would once have looked viewed from point 5.

The flat-topped hill and the hill to its left is where Deganwy Castle once stood. Since Roman times the hills have been occupied by people. A castle has been built, fought over, demolished and rebuilt many times by many nations. In 1277 the castle was finally demolished by the Welsh (who at the time occupied it) to stop Edward I taking it over. Edward did invade and used the stone to build Conwy Castle just up the estuary.

4 Continue around the hill and follow the footpath through the gorse and bracken. You will see a boundary and houses ahead of you and a kissing gate down on your right. Walk around to the left to follow the footpath to a stile and gate.



← Looking at the plaque between the two hills that explains that a castle once stood here.

5 Go over the stile. Follow the right-hand boundary to start and then aim ahead for a gate between the two hills. Go through the gate. Continue ahead and to the left along a well-used footpath, through the gorse and to more open grassland. You will pass a fence line. Looking below you will see a row of houses backing onto the Vardre. (As you walk down you are aiming for the left side of these houses.) Head down on a well-used grassy path aiming for a stile. Go over the stile to follow a clear footpath down to the left. Go through a kissing gate to come out onto a road.

You will see the A55 go down under the river on either side of the estuary. Just across the river is Conwy Marina.

Did you know?

During the Second World War the site was used to build the mulberry harbours, which were used for the Normandy D-Day landings.



↑ **View from between point 5 and 6:** Looking towards Conwy Castle and the Walled Town.

6 Turn left up a driveway. On the first corner continue ahead along the footpath. Follow the footpath for about 300 metres to go through a kissing gate to meet a track. Turn left to follow the track to the end of the small field on your right. Here you will see a narrow footpath (just before the caravan park).

7 Follow this footpath across a driveway, and continue along another footpath down the side of a field. At the end of the field go over a stile into a caravan park. Continue ahead and turn right onto the 'park road'. Follow the road around to the left. As the road straightens out, keep an eye out for a footpath sign (on your left) directing you between the caravans and along a footpath to the right. Go through a kissing gate to follow the left-hand boundary of the field. Go through the next kissing gate and you will come to the drive you started your walk on. Retrace your steps to the start of the walk.

An optional short walk to St Hilary's Church

From the bus stop on Bryn Lupus Road walk towards the houses. Take the second road turning on your left for Hill View Road. At the bottom corner you will see a footpath sign. Follow this path.

Just behind this estate is the site of St Mary's Well. Unfortunately, today it isn't easy to see. It fell into disuse after Llanrhos was connected to the Llandudno mains water supply. The well probably pre-dates the church and this may be the reason for its location. The well was excavated and restored by Ken Davies of Hill View Road in 1994.

Continue along the path to meet the B5115 road into Llandudno. Turn left and follow the pavement to St Hilary's Church. **Take care when crossing the road.**



↑ St Hilary's Church, Llanrhos.

St Hilary's Church is the oldest church in the parish of Llanrhos. The church you see today was largely rebuilt in 1865. But the practice of Christianity here goes way back to the mid 6th century. Maelgwn King of Gwynedd, who lived in the castle on the Vardre, built the original church on this site. He is also said to have died here from the great yellow fever.

Enjoyed your walk? To explore more of Llandudno and its surrounding countryside here are a few other walks you may like.

The Great Orme

Discover the Great Orme
Great Orme Historical Trail
Great Orme Nature Trail
Great Orme Summit Trails

The All Wales Coastal Path

The North Wales Path and All Wales Coastal Path follow the coast of Llandudno.

For more information on these walks, call 01492 575290

Health walks

Llandudno has a great promenade with fantastic views for short and easy walks. For more information about 'Walking the Way to Health,' visit: www.whi.org.uk

Visit a local bookshop or search the internet for walks books about Llandudno.