



This walk guides you round some of the most interesting old buildings in Pontblyddyn. Allow ¾ hour for the walk, longer if you want to linger or visit Plas Teg

1. Starting at the Bridge Inn, Pontblyddyn, walk along the pavement by the side of the main road A494 in the Wrexham direction. To your left arc the old terraced houses known as Red Row and White Row. At the end of the rows, look out for the driveway towards the cluster of old buildings dominated by the Elizabethan Fferm.

#### FFERM

2. "This miniature manor is on the Hartsheath estate," writes Simon Jenkins', who places it correctly but unhelpfully in the parish of Hope, "apparently dated c1585" and not 1506 as it says over the door. One wing of the property seems to have gone, and we are left with "a conventional Elizabethan hall plan, with fireplace and chimney built in ..... the house is flanked by a medieval brewhouse and a courtyard of buildings of the same date as the manor, a delightful group" Please note that this is accessed by a private drive and there is no right of way.



Make your way back to the main road and turn left continuing along the pavement. Shortly you pass the entrance to Hartsheath before a short stretch under the canopy of trees (bluebells to right and left in the spring) leads you to the start of the dual carriageway. You can cross here to the driveway leading to Plas Teg, (which is open to visitors on Sundays and Bank Holidays) but beware of thundering traffic.

#### HARTSHEATH

"This is a typically dignified mansion built for the new rich of the Regency. Its date is 1825 "You cannot see the main building from the walk, but there are public rights of way throughout the estate.



## PLAS TEG

3. The most enjoyable early Jacobean house in Wales "Plas Teg was built around 1610 for Sir John Trevor." <sup>1</sup> The facade is symmetrical, four corner towers flanking three recessed and gabled bays." The building is open to the public but check for details.



Retrace your steps to cross the dual carriageway (the traffic still thunders) and look out for a sign and stile leading away from the pavement into the haven of countryside. The path takes you on to a gate and bridge over the River Alyn, with another gate on the far side. Maintain the same direction, keeping the field edge to your left until you notice a useful gate, which gives access to the driveway to one of the estate cottages. This path takes you on to a more substantial driveway. At this point you need to strike across the open field ahead.

4. Go straight ahead, uphill. There is only the trace of a path here, and you may have to make your own route, but this is the right of way. On the top of the hillock you will have a better view of your route. You are making for the edge of a pool ahead of you.



The path appears to veer right towards a gate and farm. In fact it does do that, but you leave it here, striking off to the left. With the pool now on your right, cross parkland once again. You will notice a fenced ring of trees on your left.

5. If all goes well you should cross another driveway to Hartsheath before reaching a corner of fences. Keep the fence on your left and follow it around until you come to the edge of the wood. At this point you will notice a stile in the fence on your left and you cross here into the field beyond.
6. You need to reach the far right-hand corner of the field, crossing it on the diagonal, so strike boldly across aiming for what will eventually turn out to be another stile. Once over the stile make your way through saplings to the edge of a lane which takes you downhill now, through a gateway and across an old bridge to reach the Bridge Inn once again.