

# Great Wood and the Avenue... 2½ miles

## Lanhydrock, Cornwall

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This gentle walk is a great introduction to the magical, mature, mixed woodland and impressive parkland of the Lanhydrock estate.

**Start:** Lanhydrock main visitor reception **Grid ref:** SX088636 **Map:** OS Landranger 200

### How to get here

**Bike:** National Cycle Network route 3 passes the estate boundary: [www.sustrans.org.uk](http://www.sustrans.org.uk)

**Rail:** Bodmin Parkway station 1¼ miles via original carriage-drive, 3 miles by road


**Road:** 2½ miles south east of Bodmin. Follow signposts from either A30 or A38 Bodmin to Liskeard, or take B3268 off A390 at Lostwithiel


### Local facilities


Victorian house, gardens, café, restaurant, shop, toilets, children's quiz/trail (please see guidebook or [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lanhydrock](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lanhydrock) for opening times and charges).


Estate and gardens open all year, including picnic areas, parking in main car park (free) or at Respryn car park (free for NT members).

### Wildlife to look out for...

 **Birds:** Woodpeckers can be heard throughout the woodland and park. See if you can spot Pied Flycatchers feeding on berries and invertebrates in summer.

 **Insects:** The Oil Beetle is one of Lanhydrock's most impressive finds, with its iridescent blue/black sheen and keep an eye out for Ground and Dor's beetles crossing your path. Between April and September the Speckled Wood butterfly puts on spectacular spiralling displays.

 **Plants:** The organic parkland is home to spectacular spring and summer displays of Lady's Smock, Pignut and Bugle, while camellias and rhododendrons line the first section of Lady's Walk. Woodland plants, such as bluebells, Red Campion and wild garlic, also flourish.

 **Trees:** Discover the impressive avenue of beech and sycamore, with just two oak impostors! Great Wood lives up to its name, with a mix of beech, oak, sycamore, ash, sweet chestnut, holly and a number of Scots Pine. Also, look out for the amazing fungi which these trees provide a home for.



Lanhydrock house is the ultimate example of the 19<sup>th</sup> century 'upstairs/downstairs' lifestyle. The surrounding 900 acres of land, including formal gardens, two miles of the River Fowey, interesting archaeology, mixed woodland, heathland and a children's play area, gives much to explore for everyone.



A combination of algae and fungi, lichens are very sensitive to air pollution, but here at Lanhydrock they thrive. The beech trees are almost entirely covered in a variety of species and the estate is one of the most important sites for lichens in the south west and is of national importance.



Since the clearance of the invasive Rhododendron ponticum from Great Wood, fantastic displays of bluebells can be seen in the spring. Lanhydrock is also home to kingfishers, dormice and twelve species of bat.

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**'A great place to enjoy nature, with wonderful displays of spring flowers in the woods, gnarled old trees in the park and a good chance of seeing bats out feeding in summer evenings.'**

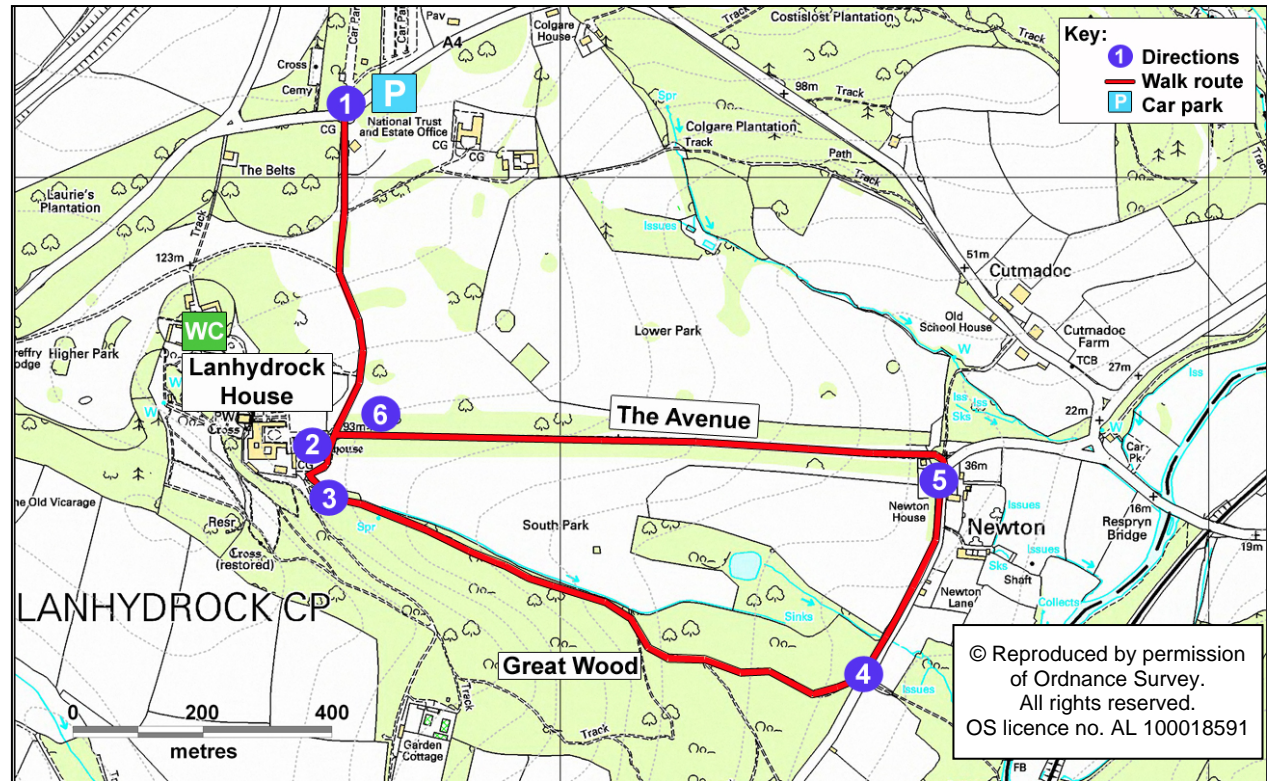
*Janet Lister, National Trust Nature Conservation Adviser*

## Route and directions

1. Leave the main car park and follow the signs for Lanhydrock House, crossing the road and entering the park by the reception building. Delabole slate has been used to roof the octagonal reception building, built in 1990.
2. Follow the path down the hill towards Lanhydrock House. Continue past the gatehouse. The parkland that surrounds you has been certified organic since 2004, with no pesticides or fertilisers having been applied to the land since the late 1990s. This has allowed traditional grassland flowers to flourish. The unusually bumpy ground in the park is the remains of a mediaeval field system.
3. Go through the wide, unpainted gate next to the cattle grid, and turn left. This track, running down the edge of Great Wood, is known as Lady's Walk. To the left of Lady's Walk you can see the 1823 ha-ha, a vertical wall alongside a stream. The ha-ha prevented the parkland grazing stock from getting into the woodland, without interrupting the view from the house.
4. Follow Lady's Walk down the edge of Great Wood until you reach a red gate onto Newton Lane. Turn left here and continue past the privately-owned cottages.
5. Turn left through the gates by Newton Lodge into the Avenue. This impressive gateway, marked with the initials of John and Lucy Robartes, is dated 1657. The magnificent beech trees that line the Avenue, are host to a magnificent array of invertebrates, fungi, lichen and other wildlife.

The Avenue was originally planted circa 1657, with just a single row of sycamore either side of the track.

6. At the top of the Avenue, turn right and follow the path back up through the park to the main entrance and car park.



### Distance, terrain and accessibility

2½ miles (4km) along well-surfaced tracks. Lady's Walk is a little bumpy in places but is approached in a downhill direction. Short, steep incline as you enter the Avenue.

There are many other routes at Lanhydrock for you to explore, including walks alongside Lanhydrock's 2 mile stretch of the River Fowey.

### Dogs

Dogs on leads are welcome on the estate, but livestock graze in the park. No dogs in the garden thank you.

**Contact us:** Telephone 01208 265950; email [lanhydrock@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:lanhydrock@nationaltrust.org.uk)

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