

# Manorbier

**Start** Manorbier

**Distance** 3 miles (4.8km)

**Approximate time** 1½ hours

**Parking** National park car park at Manorbier

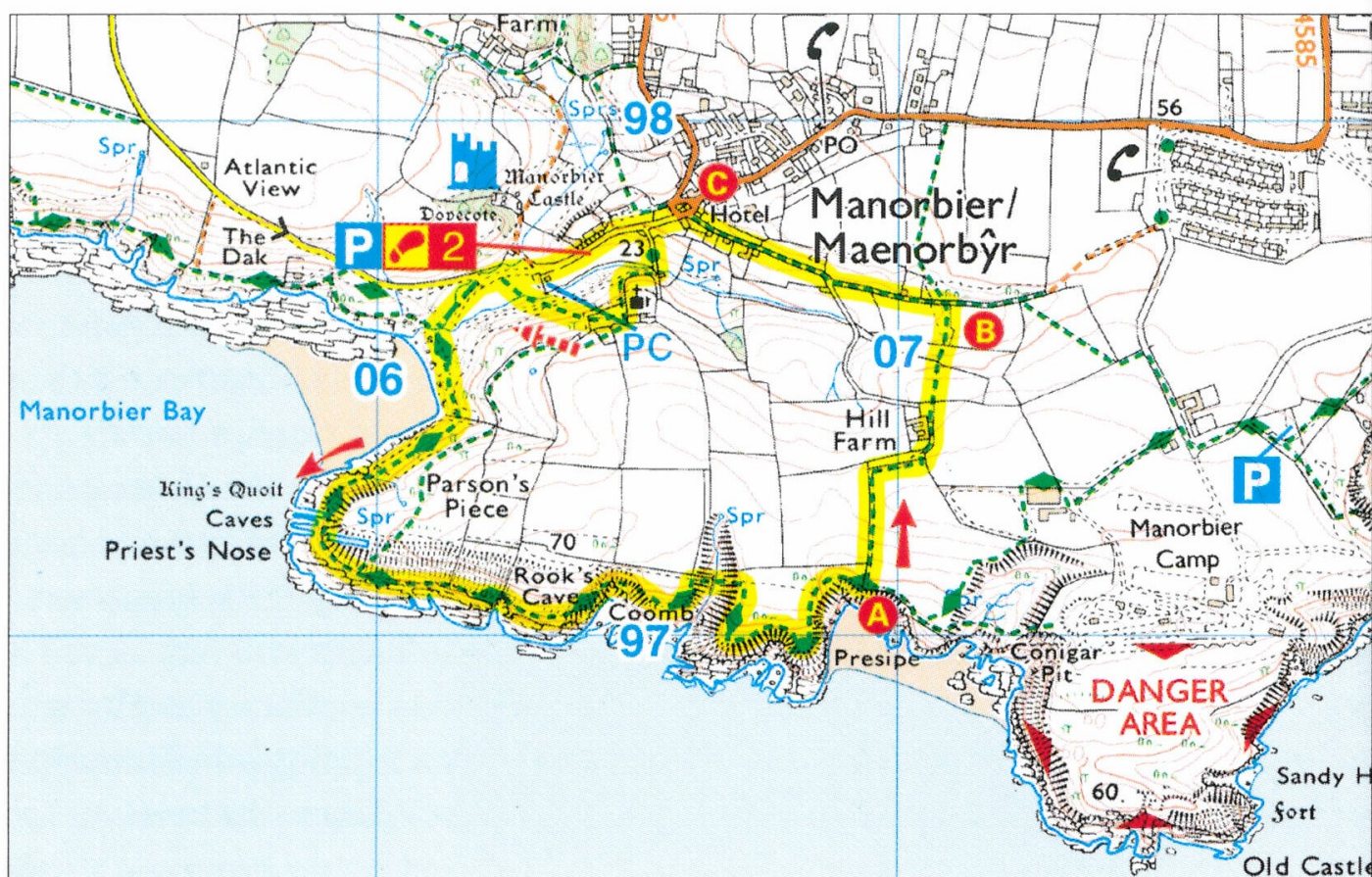
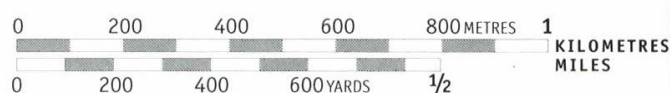
**Refreshments** Pubs and cafés at Manorbier

**Ordnance Survey maps** Landranger 158 (Tenby & Pembroke),  
Explorer OL36 (South Pembrokeshire)

*The medieval Welsh churchman Giraldus Cambrensis, who was born at Manorbier in 1146, described the village as 'the pleasantest spot in Wales'. Walkers can judge this for themselves on this ramble that takes in a short and relatively easy section of the coast path on the east of Manorbier Bay before returning, via field paths and tracks, to the village with its twin historic attractions of medieval church and castle.*

At Manorbier the castle and church occupy opposite sides of a shallow valley that leads to a sandy bay. The substantial and well-preserved castle, a mainly late 13th- and early 14th-century rebuilding of the original Norman structure, belonged to the de Barri family, whose most famous


family member was Gerald de Barri, better known as Giraldus Cambrensis or Gerald of Wales. In 1188 he guided the Archbishop of Canterbury on a tour around Wales to recruit volunteers for




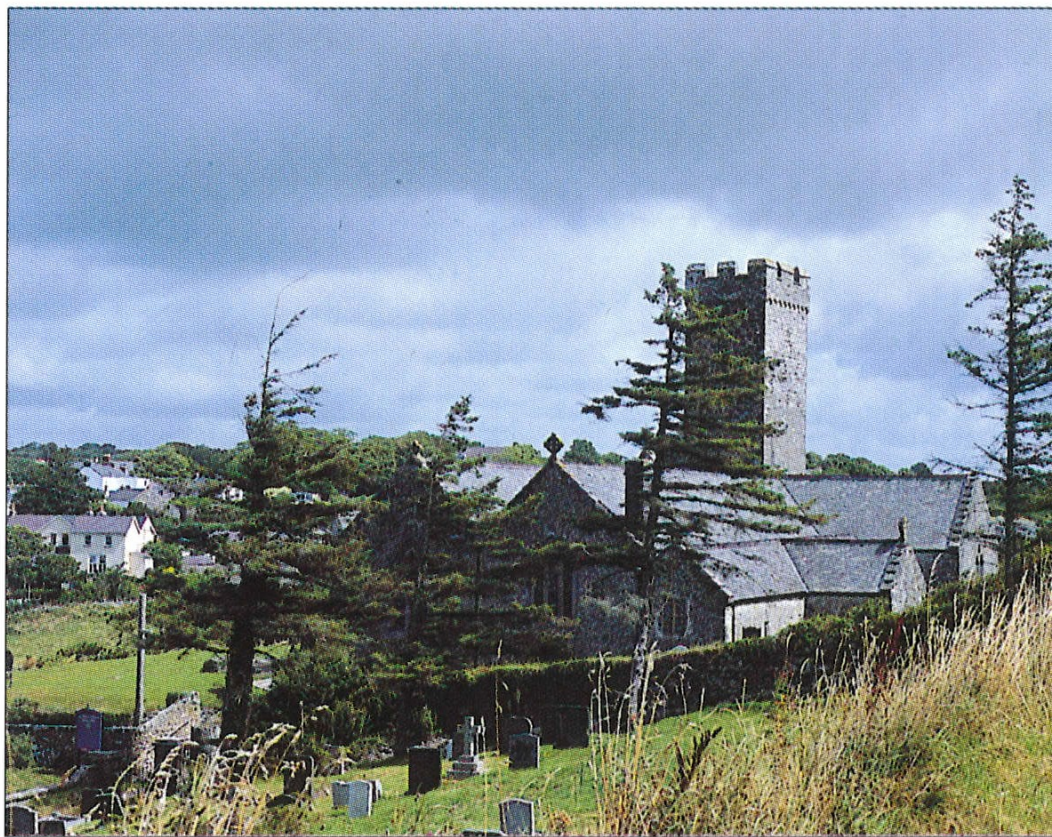


the crusade to the Holy Land, and his detailed accounts of this journey in *Itinerary through Wales and Description of Wales and its People* are invaluable historic sources, giving a fascinating insight into Welsh life at the time. Despite holding several important positions in the Church, Gerald never accomplished either of his two main ambitions: to create an independent Welsh Church and to become Bishop of St David's.

Manorbier church, dedicated to St. James the Greater, is also of Norman origin, with subsequent additions. Its irregularity gives it a highly distinctive appearance, and it has the usual tall, narrow, crenellated tower that is found in this part of Pembrokeshire.


 Begin by taking the path at the far end of the car park, signposted 'Beach Access' which leads to the beach. Walk across the sand to a flight of steps at the far end by a coast path sign. Climb the steps and then a stile and follow the coast path to the end of the headland. To the right is a fine view across Manorbier Bay, looking towards St Govan's Head.


Just before rounding the headland you pass King's Quoit, a neolithic burial chamber. Continue along the coast path that winds across smooth, sloping, grassy cliffs, passing some spectacular rock pinnacles. After climbing a stile at a footpath sign, turn left  away from the coast and head gently uphill along the left-hand edge of a field, at first by a wall and later by a wire fence on the left. From here the route is marked by a series of yellow-painted footpath signs. Climb a stile, continue to a field corner where a footpath sign directs you to the



*The medieval church at Manorbier*

right and climb another stile. Bear left to keep alongside a wire fence on the right, passing to the right of a farm.

At the end of the farm buildings bear left to climb a stile and head in a straight line across a field, making for a gap in the hedge in front, and beyond this descend to a stile and footpath sign. Climb the stile, descend some stone steps and continue downhill across a field, veering slightly left to pass through a wall gap. Turn left , climb a stile and walk along a track, passing to the left of a house. Ahead the tall, narrow tower of Manorbier church can be seen.

At a T-junction of tracks bear right to continue along a hedge-lined track, eventually passing between houses to reach the road in Manorbier village. Turn left , following signs to 'Car park, beach and castle', along a road that returns directly to the starting point.

If you wish to visit the church, take the first turning on the left and follow a narrow lane that descends, turns sharply right and then heads uphill. Where it curves left just before reaching the church, a path leads off to the right and heads down into the car park. 