3. A foot in both camps
Five walks on the Shropshire border - Llanymynech walk

Straddle the border on this walk of wonders. Offa’s engineers took a short cut to meet their King’s demands, marking the mineral wealth of Llanymynech as Mercian by building on the ramparts of a much earlier and massive Iron Age fort. The Romans were first to mine here, pre-dating Offa’s engineers by some margin. But Victorian engineering surpassed them all, cutting these steep cliffs and building canals and railways to remove their spoils.

START/FINISH POINT
OS Explorer 240
Parking: Llanymynech Limeworks Heritage Area (SJ 266210) or Llanymynech car park behind the Dolphin Inn and General Stores (SJ 266210).

WALK ROUTE
Distance: 10km (6¼ miles)
Time: 3½ – 4 hrs
DIFFICULTY ★★★☆☆

1. START in Llanymynech on the canal bridge over the Montgomery Canal (No 92) on the A483. Follow the canal tow path east (into England), passing the bridge abutments where the old railway crossed the canal, onto the canal road bridge. Continue under and straight on along what remains of the tow path, then up and over the embankment of the old railway. Then follow a better defined tow path over a stile to another stile in front of the canal road bridge (No 90).

2. This is the site of the Old Pant Warf (details on a panel by the bridge). Follow the tow path for short distance then over two stiles. From here the canal and tow path bends around to the right to meet another canal road bridge. Do not go through the wooden wicket gate, but go up the side of the bridge onto the road and over the canal.

3. The road bends to the left here, but the walk bears right down and over the stile to cross the field towards a clump of trees and cross the stile in the hedge. Head up towards the trees and the stile and old gate. Continue into the left-hand corner of the field to the stile, and then follow the right-hand side of the hedge over the stile by a gate, past a natural mound on the right to a double stile by an electricity pole. Go across the field then over the stile in the line of oak trees. Continue to the stile and gate by the houses and the road (B4398).

4. Cross the road (with care) and walk along the pavement towards the Llyncllys terminus of the Cambrian Heritage Railway. Continue over the bridge to the crossroads at the White Lion and go straight across the road (with care). Follow the pavement to the houses and the sign for Turner’s Lane.

5. Cross over and go along the lane to just past the Nature Reserve information board. Turn right along the bridleway and up the sunken track into the Reserve to the fork in track.

6. Bear left up the bank to the next junction, turn left to the “T” junction and go right along the obvious track past the information board on the right. At the “T” junction head straight on then down to the house, past the information board on your right.

7. Bear right along the track to join the stone wall on the left. Take the minor track on the right through the trees, keeping right at the junctions until the entrance gates to a house. Turn right to the information board and steps at the edge of the escarpment.

8. Go up the steps known as ‘Jacob’s Ladder’ and follow the path to a good view point. Continue along the edge, crossing several stiles, and through a kissing gate to meet Offa’s Dyke Path.

9. Follow the National Trail straight on to the stile crossing the England / Wales border. Continue along the edge of the golf course and through the Nature Reserve to reach the old winding house on the left.

If you've downloaded the podcast, listen to it here.

10. Continue straight ahead through the wooden kissing gate and leave the National Trail to drop down to the right. Follow the bridleway with the quarry face on the left to reach the reconstructed winding house. Don’t miss the view point on the right.

11. Turn right and walk down the English inclined plane, through the kissing gate to bear right through the tunnel under the road. Continue, keeping right to pass the Tally House on the left.

12. Follow the track and then go left between the old railway abutments following the track to the Hoffmann Kiln. Go past the kiln down the steps turning right then left past the old stables building following the track back to the start.
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START/FINISH

KEY
- Main walk route
- Roads
- Tracks / paths
- Offa’s Dyke
- Offa’s Dyke Path
- Bridleways
- Footpaths
- England/Wales border
- Access land
- Quarry remains

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These guides and the podcasts are also downloadable from www.shropshirewalking.co.uk