

WHERE THIS BOOK'S WALES IS

Where the stories in this book happen. Sikes gives a parish more often than he gives a source, and the parish is the best evidence there is of a real informant.

Place	County	What is there
Cardiff	Glamorgan	Where Sikes lived and worked as United States Consul from June 1876. Some of the book's own collecting was done at an inn outside it.
Laugharne	Carmarthenshire	Where the fairies came to market and paid in fairy money. One of two plates naming a specific town.
Llyn Barfog	Merioneth	The bearded lake, above Aberdovey — home of the elfin cow of Book I chapter III, and one of the few northern locations with a full story attached.
Myddfai	Carmarthenshire	The village of the Meddygon Myddfai, the physicians descended by legend from a lake maiden — and a real medical lineage with medieval Welsh manuscripts attached to the name.
Crumlyn Lake	Glamorgan	Where St Patrick is said to have quarrelled with the Welsh; the lake-fairy legend of Book I chapter III.
St Dogmell's	Pembrokeshire	The parish of Shui Rhys, who danced with the tylwyth teg. One of the few tales in Book I with both a name and a parish, which is why it can be checked and most cannot.
Cwm Llan	Caernarvonshire	The valley of the shepherds who were given fairy money, under Snowdon — and one of the book's rare northern stories.
Bedwellty	Monmouthshire	The flying fairies. Monmouthshire is Edmund Jones's county, and its frequency in this book is a fact about Jones rather than about Wales.
Trwyn Farm	Monmouthshire	Home of the famous sprite of Book II chapter V — the best-documented apparition in the volume, and again Jones's territory.
Pant y Madog	Glamorgan	Where the gwyllgi, the dog of darkness, was met.
Lisworney Crossways	Glamorgan	Another gwyllgi. Note the crossroads, which is where these things are met across Britain.
St Donat's	Glamorgan	The castle of Lady Stradling's ghost, and of the miser whose spirit would not rest for money.
Caerphilly	Glamorgan	The green lady, and the colour observation that is the one durable finding of Book I chapter XI.
Pontypridd	Glamorgan	The rocking stone, and the ceremonies Sikes describes as Druidic. They were conducted by Myfyr Morganwg, who began them in about 1853, and were roughly a quarter of a century old when he watched them.
Coychurch	Glamorgan	Where the tower fell, in the last chapter of the book.
Neath	Glamorgan	Near which stood the stone pillar of Banwan Bryddin, and the catastrophe that followed its removal.
Stackpool	Pembrokeshire	The dancing stones.

Place	County	What is there
Paviland	Glamorgan (Gower)	The cave of the Red Lady. The burial was named in 1823, is in fact that of a young man, and is now known to be Upper Palaeolithic — among the oldest ceremonial burials in Britain. Sikes was writing before either fact was established.
Holywell	Flintshire	St Winifred's Well: unique among Britain's sacred sites in keeping its pilgrimage unbroken through the Reformation, and the longest treatment in Book IV. It is also, at a single mention for its county, an outlier in this book's geography.
Rhayader	Radnorshire	The bell, in Book IV chapter I.
Aberdovey	Merioneth	The bells heard under the sea — the tradition of Cantre'r Gwaelod, the drowned lowland hundred of Cardigan Bay, and the air Clychau Aberdyfi.
Anglesey	Anglesey	Mentioned eleven times and given no sustained story. The island was a centre of Welsh tradition and of the Welsh language, and its near-absence here is the clearest single illustration of what this book's geography leaves out.

From British Goblins by Wirt Sikes, Valice Classics 16. Free at valicepress.com/companion/british-goblins