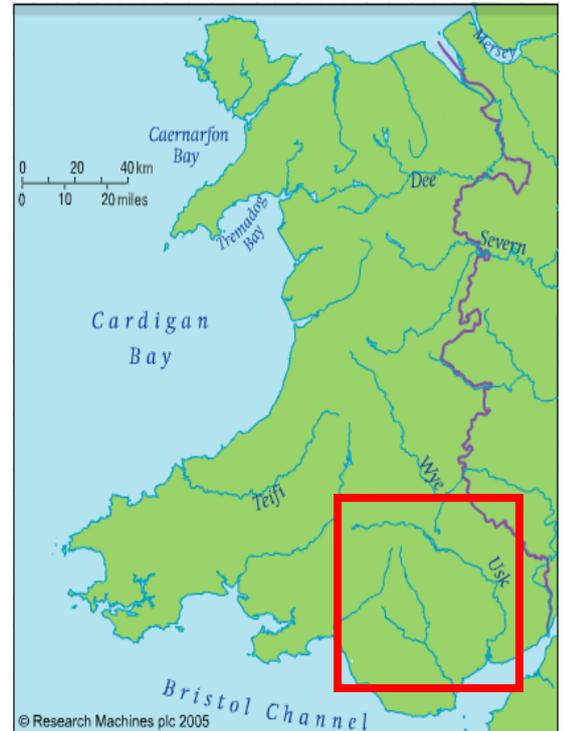


# THE RIVER USK



The River Usk is in Southeast Wales. It starts on the northern slopes of the Black Mountain, high in the Brecon Beacons. The river flows for 137 kilometres, through the city of Newport, before finally joining the sea at the Severn Estuary.



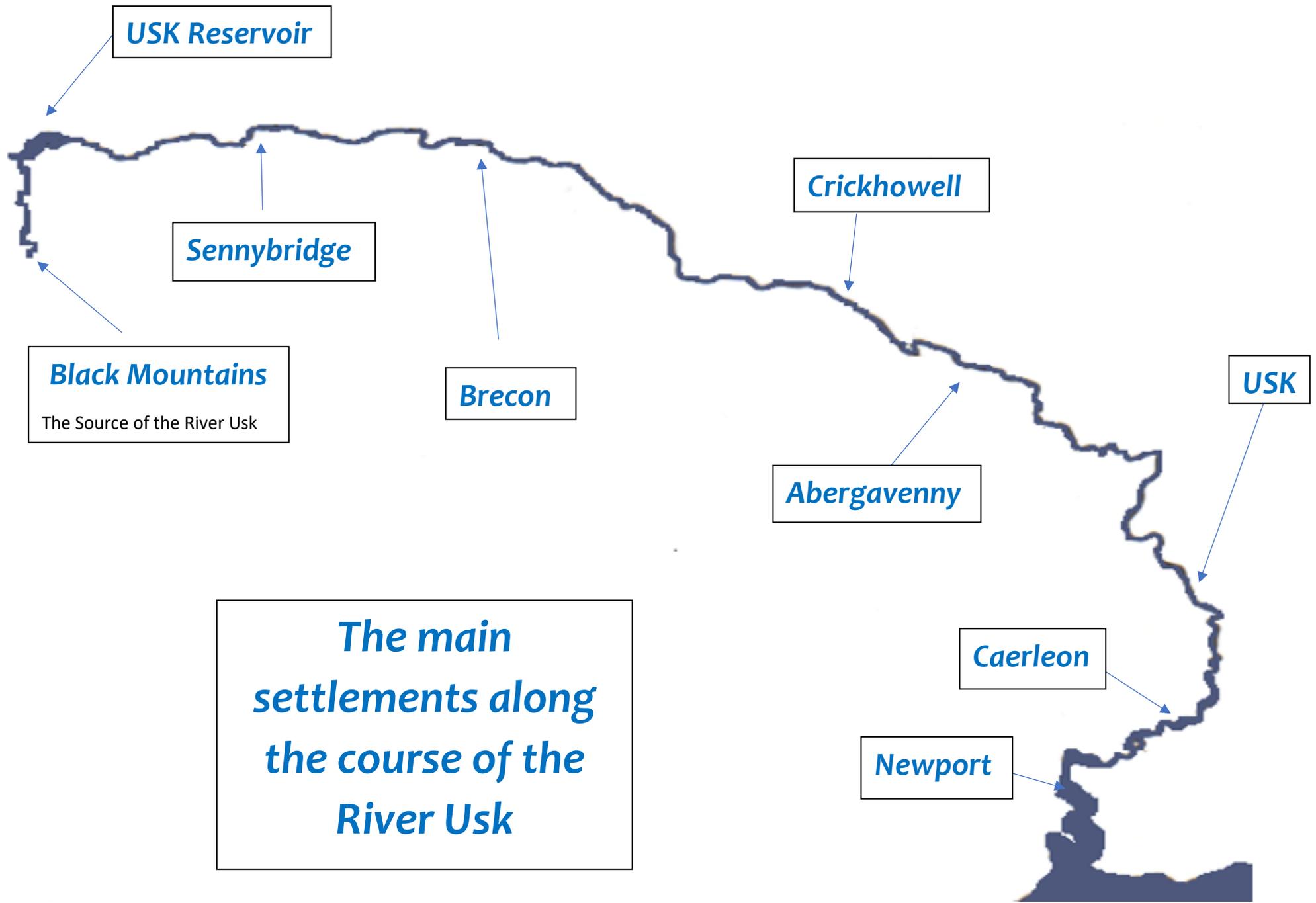
Historically, the River Usk used to be the old border between England and Wales. Over the centuries, it attracted large settlements along its banks who developed key bridging points.



The Transporter Bridge at Newport



Abergavenny Bridge



## *Stops along the way...*

### ***Number 1: Black Mountains***

The River Usk begins here, in Y Mynydd Du, on the northern slopes of the Black Mountain, on the northern slopes.



### ***Number 2: USK Reservoir***

This reservoir supplies Swansea and the Brecon area. It is situated 307 metres above sea level and regulates the River Usk.



### ***Number 3: Sennybridge***

Sennybridge is a village along our journey, and built at the point where the River Usk is joined by another river, the Afon Senni.



### ***Number 4: Brecon***

A large regional market town, where the River Usk meets two other rivers: the Tarrell and the Honddu. Before the building of the bridge over the Usk in 1563, Brecon was one of the few places where the river could be forded.



### ***Number 5: Crickhowell***

Crickhowell has another bridge along the Usk, built in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. It is known for its odd arches (12 on one side, and 13 on the other) and its seat built into the walls.



### ***Number 6: Abergavenny***

Abergavenny is a market town, and seen as the Gateway to Wales. Here, the River Usk joins the smaller River Gavenny.



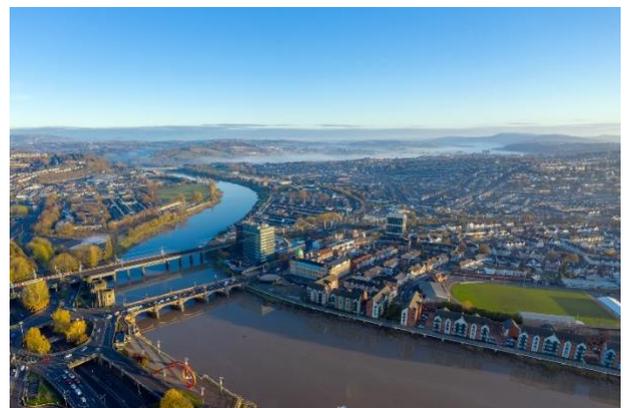
### ***Number 7: Usk***

A small town named after the river itself. The river is crossed here with another arched stone bridge, and Usk Castle overlooks the old crossing point.



### ***Number 8: Newport***

Our final stop, Newport is a port and industrial city. This is where we find the mouth of the River Usk, leading the river into the sea at the Severn Estuary.





Painting by Mark Cox (2012)

The River Usk running  
under a bridge at Brynych.



Oil painting by Mike Burns  
(2011)

River Usk at Crickhowell



Painting by Edmund  
Marriner Gill (1858)

Mill in Ruins on Banks of the  
River Usk