



# THE SWAN WALK

Bear left up to a stile in the hedge not far from the top corner. On the driveway, turn right and walk up to join the road, go left and then take the right fork. A little way down on the left leave the road at the stile. Go diagonally right to cross a small field and a stile. On the way down to Blackmoor Farm, there are two more stiles. Leave the last field at the bottom corner.



Blackmoor

Cross a paddock to reach and go over the driveway. Carry on through a hedge and a small orchard to take the stile next to a gate and a little further on another in the hedge on the right. Descend the steps and head diagonally left to go through the poplar plantation. Here the route merges with part of The Monnow River Walk.

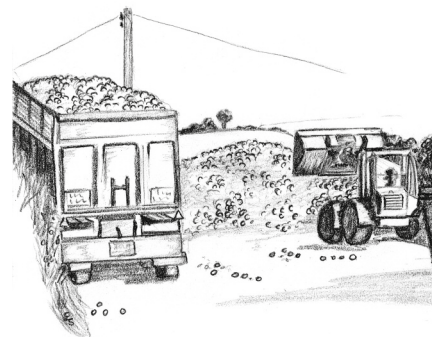
Cross the bridge and go through the next plantation diagonally right to the field corner near the river. From the stile, bear left to cut across a loop of the river. Continue along the bank to a gate which gives entry to Clappers Wood; walk through and out into a field.

Ahead is the residence of Ruthlin Mill, all that remains of a group of buildings.

In a document dated 1591, there is a mention of Ruthlin as a water grist mill; in the 18th century it laid claim to being one of the first mechanised paper mills in the country which it continued to be until the mid-19th century.

Continue in the same direction through two gates and cross the driveway of Ruthlin Mill. After another gate keep above some sheds and then go down the steps. Turn left and leave the property at a gate.

Walk straight across the field to its boundary, turn left and go up to the road.



Gathering up the cider apples above Ruthlin Mill

Proceed right along the road a short distance to take a stile on the left.

Climb diagonally right to the

corner stile and go through the woodland, via two series of steps, to emerge onto a track.

Turn right and go over a stile onto the hillside. Continue straight across the slope, past a large oak tree and an electricity pole on the right, to a stile; after this go up to reach another in the fence line. This gives access to Coedanghred Hill. Walk up diagonally left to the top. The next stile is set in a fence at the start of the downward slope.

Go straight down just left of some oak trees and over three stiles to reach the road and The Bell.



from the bell at skenfrith

Distance: 6¼ miles (10kms) Allow 3½ hours  
With two climbs - one of 330ft (100m) one of 440ft (135m)

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**Please be aware:**

This is not 'Right to Roam' Countryside.  
Please keep dogs on leads where there is livestock.

Much of this walk is marked by a swan logo. A chained swan was the badge of Mary de Bohun, the mother of Henry V who was born at Monmouth Castle.



Go left along the road and take the first turning on the left into Linthill Lane. Walk up to the top - about 1 kilometre. On the downward slope go past Tower Hill Cottage and look for a stile on the left. Cross this and the one ahead, to come out into the grounds of White House Farm.

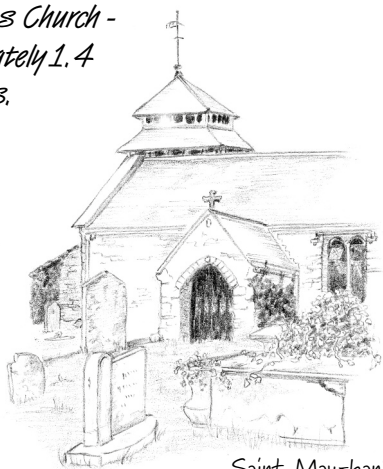
Turn left and after a short distance, go right and follow a shallow ditch on the right downhill. Cross a narrow road to go diagonally right to the corner of a wood. With the woodland on the right, follow the boundary until a bridge and stile are reached.

Cross these and go straight up to an electricity pylon, turn sharp left and descend to go over two stiles with a bridge between them.

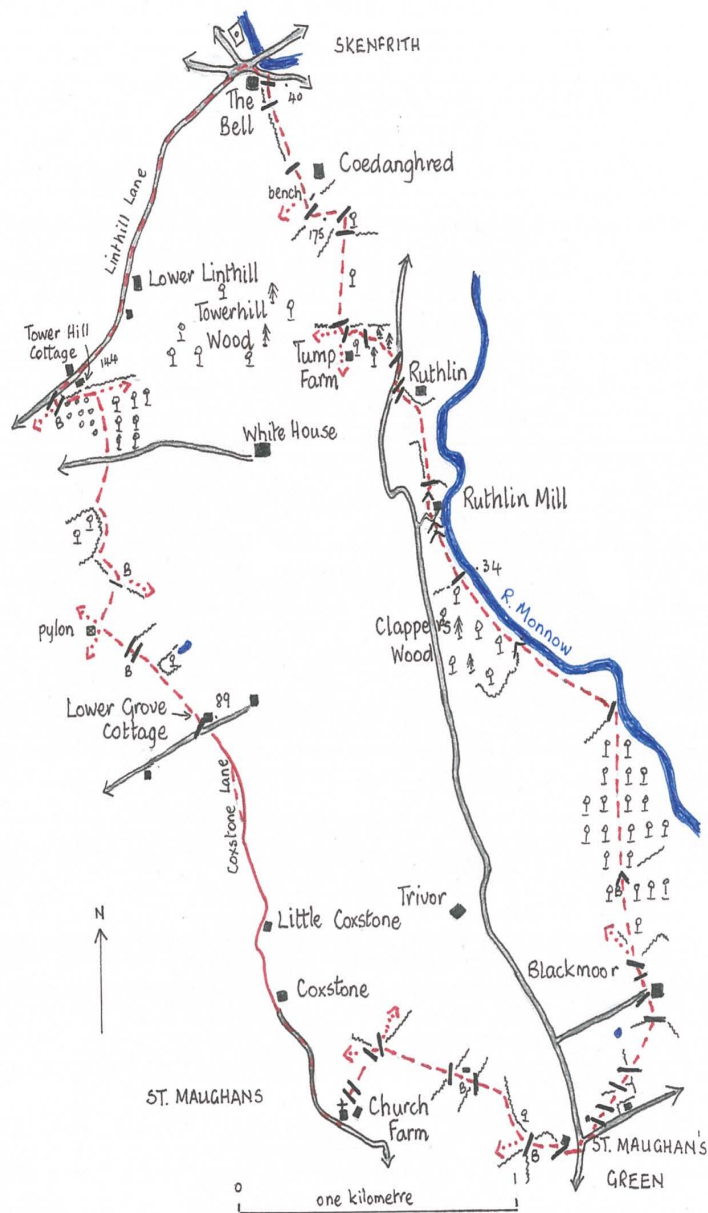
A broad green way leads to Lower Grove Cottage, first on the left of blackcurrant bushes and then between two plots of them.

Coxstone Lane once formed part of the route from Monmouth, via St. Maughans to Grosmont.

Cross the road and follow Coxstone Lane to St. Maughans Church - approximately 1.4 kilometres.



Saint Maughan's Church



Stile —  
Gate > If you open one please close it.

The name of the church is probably derived from its dedication to St. Meugan (or Maugan), a Celtic saint of the 6th century. In the north side of the churchyard, there is a granite obelisk marking the vault of the Hamilton family, one time owners of Hilston Park, the large house that can be seen near the crest of the hill.

There were adherents to the Roman Catholic faith in and around St. Maughans at the time when administering the Mass was a treasonable offence. In 1679 John Lloyd was executed in Cardiff having held Mass at nearby Trivor where the attic was used as a chapel.

Leave the churchyard at the stile in the wall near some ancient yew trees. Go down, with buildings

on the right, and over a stile. Keep ahead to the top corner of the field. Cross a stile and the next one immediately on the left.



Kestrel

The kestrel, with its long tail and pointed wings, can often be seen hovering in the open countryside searching for a meal.

Descend the field diagonally right to climb over a stile. Pass the uninhabited Old Nunnery Cottage to reach a bridge over a ditch. Cross this and the stile above the steps.

Continue straight up and over the rise and along the bottom of the field. At the boundary, go over the stile and the bridge.