

Land and Legends Trail from Great Tre-Rhew to White Castle

Two circular walks

Starting at the car-parking area in the lay-by near Llanvetherine on the B4521, a circular walk of 2.2 miles climbs steadily across a patchwork of fields, over the River Trothy and up to White Castle, with glorious views across the countryside. The walk then continues downhill along a stretch of Offa's Dyke footpath back to the main road and west back to Llanvetherine.

The second circular walk of 1.75 miles from White Castle heads downhill to the ruined Great Tre-Rhew Mill, then on to Great Tre-Rhew farm and then up-hill along the road back to the castle.

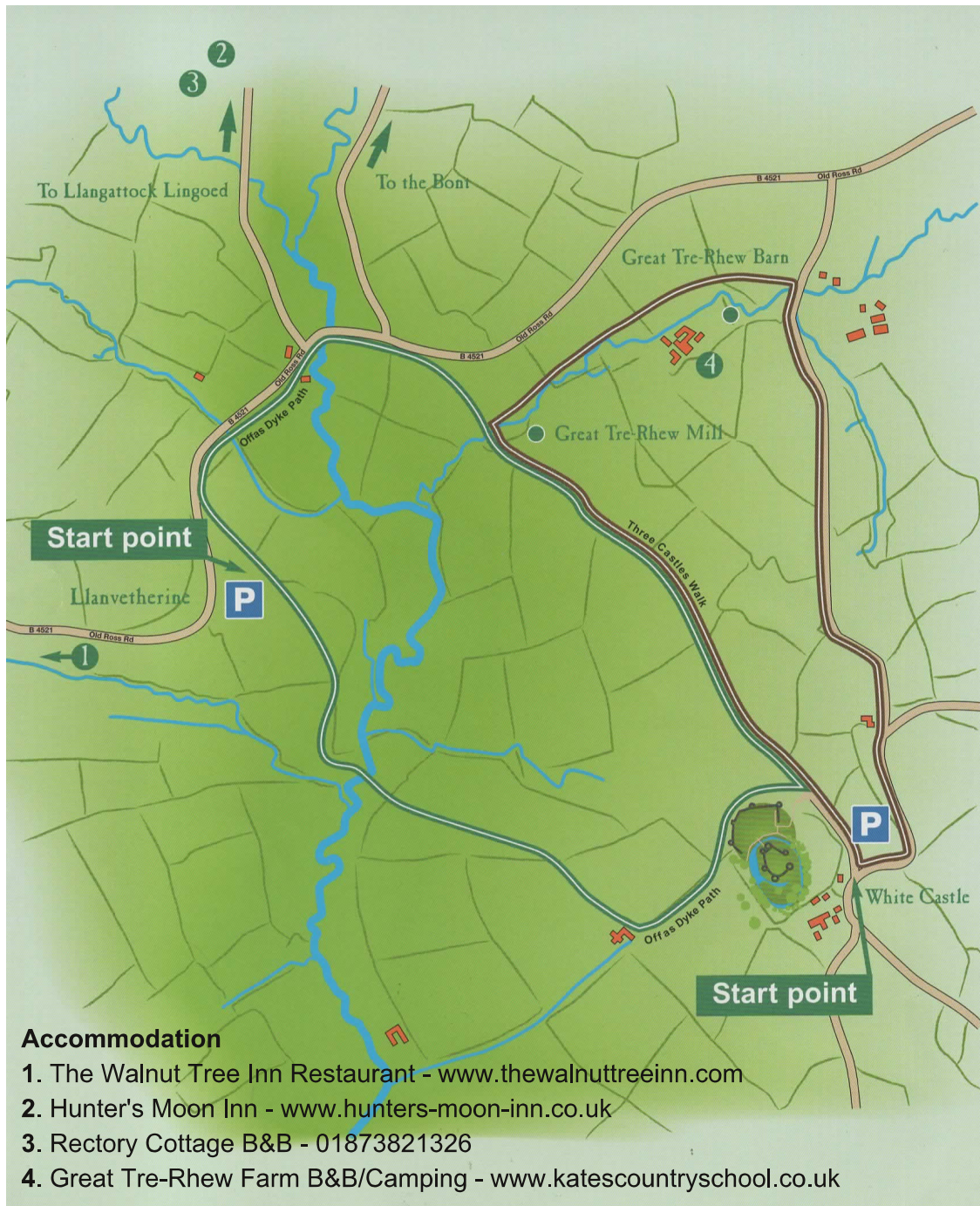
Great Tre-Rhew has been the site of a farm and small mill since the 1100s, probably providing flour and other supplies to the garrison stationed at White Castle for around 300 years. The farmhouse certainly dates from the 16th century, and probably replaced an earlier timber structure.

The Corn Barn, adjacent, dates from the 17th century.

The Mill, downstream, is believed to date to the fourteenth century.

White Castle. *The Welsh form of the name, Castell Gwyn, is said to derive from a local ruler of early Norman times, Gwyn ap Gwaethfoed, but the original name of the castle was Llantilio Castle and the alternative – first recorded in C13 – refers to the white rendering which is still visible on parts of the exterior walls.*

The original castle, probably built by William fitz Osbern (first Earl of Hereford and a relative of William the Conqueror) shortly after 1066, started as a simple motte and bailey with the castle built of timber. The site, originally entered from the south, was built to defend this part of the Welsh Marches from the Welsh. Knights with their men at arms, horses and grooms would patrol the countryside from this base. The early earthwork defences were strengthened around 1185 and enlarged in the 1250s when Welsh power was being consolidated under prince Llywelyn ap Gruffydd, but his defeat and the subsequent conquest of Wales by Edward I removed the threat and White Castle's role faded.



Accommodation

1. The Walnut Tree Inn Restaurant - www.thewalnuttreeinn.com
2. Hunter's Moon Inn - www.hunters-moon-inn.co.uk
3. Rectory Cottage B&B - 01873821326
4. Great Tre-Rhew Farm B&B/Camping - www.katescountryschool.co.uk