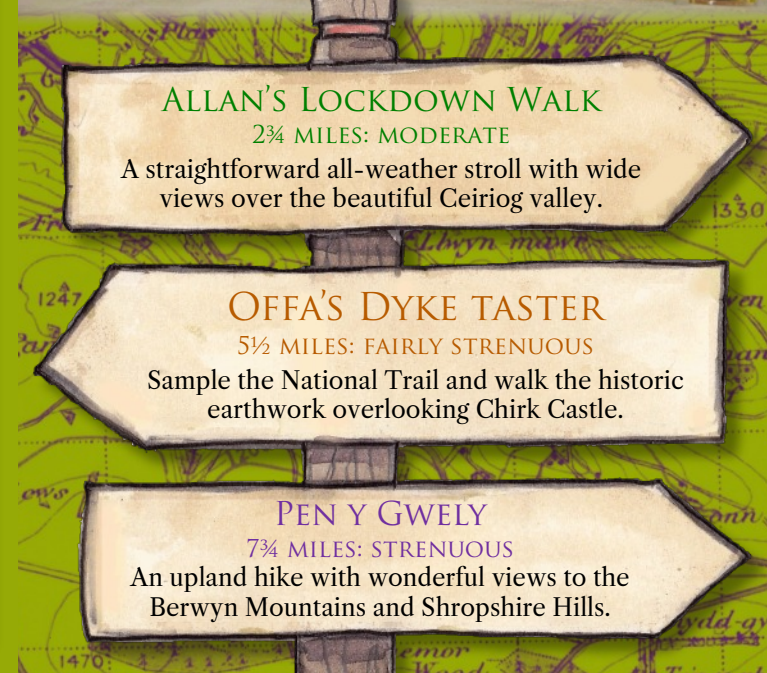




three circular walks from



LLWYNMAWR, WRECSAM



ALLAN'S LOCKDOWN WALK

2¾ MILES: MODERATE

A straightforward all-weather stroll with wide views over the beautiful Ceiriog valley.

OFFA'S DYKE TASTER

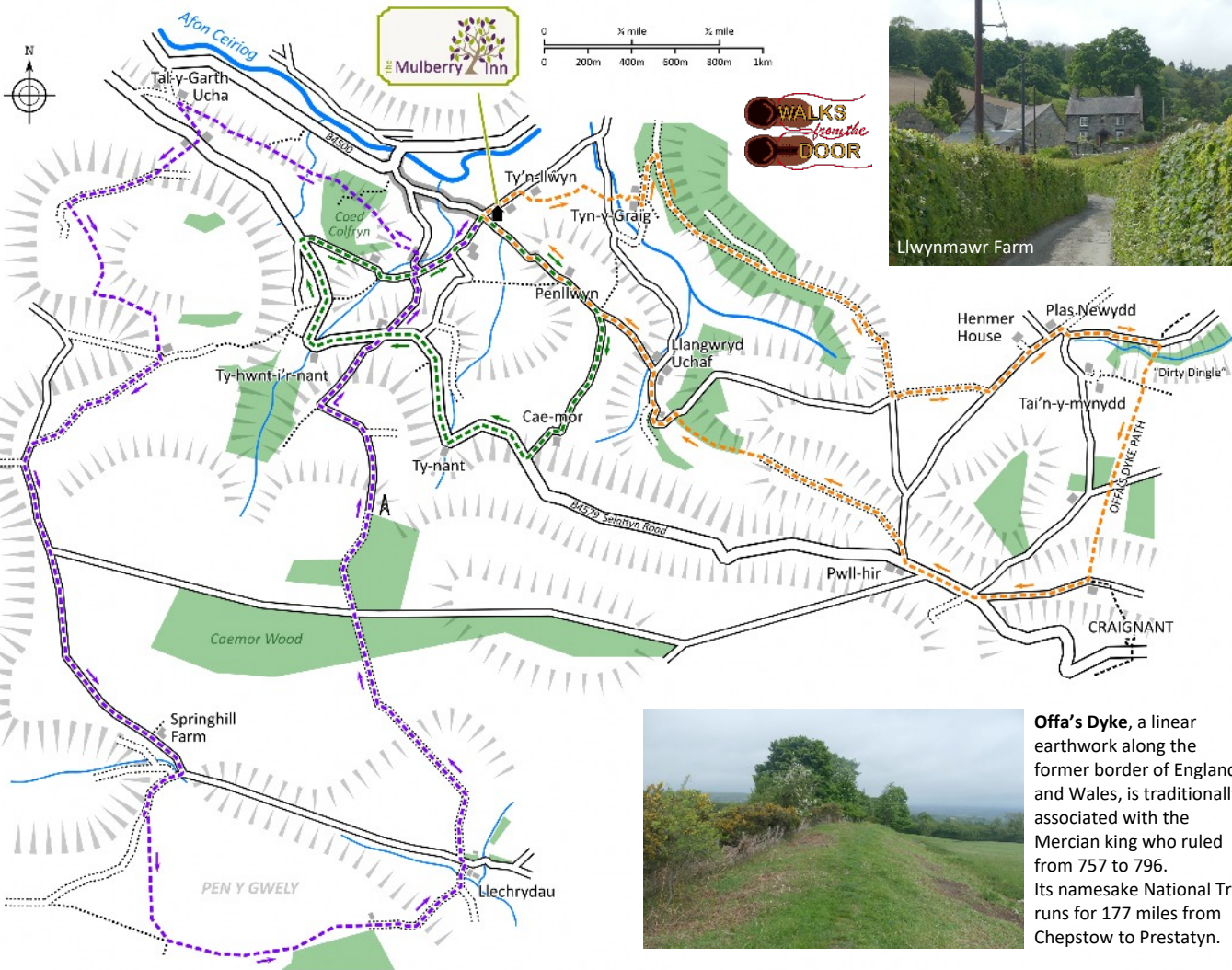
5½ MILES: FAIRLY STRENUOUS

Sample the National Trail and walk the historic earthwork overlooking Chirk Castle.

PEN Y GWELY

7¾ MILES: STRENUOUS

An upland hike with wonderful views to the Berwyn Mountains and Shropshire Hills.



Offa's Dyke, a linear earthwork along the former border of England and Wales, is traditionally associated with the Mercian king who ruled from 757 to 796. Its namesake National Trail runs for 177 miles from Chepstow to Prestatyn.

...continued from overleaf

gate, the path swings right and heads for Caemor Wood (a conifer plantation). **32** Go through another gate into the trees and continue ahead to a road. **33** Cross straight over and follow the track opposite, which leads alongside more pine trees. At the end of the wood, pass a communications mast and start to descend. **34** Keep left at a farm entrance with a footpath sign, continuing down the metalled road and following it round to the right at the bottom of another footpath. **35** The lane eventually emerges onto the B4579 Selattyn road, opposite a house (Bedlwyn) with the date 1856 in brick. **36** Cross over and follow the narrow lane to the right of the house. This quiet lane leads down to meet the outward route at a road junction by a house called Pentre Garth. **37** Turn right (sign-posted Llwynmawr) and follow the road back to the Mulberry Inn.

THE MULBERRY INN

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Welcome to The Mulberry Inn in the quiet setting of Llwynmawr village in the beautiful Ceiriog valley. A 'once discovered, never forgotten' place to stay – a delightful country inn where the warmth and friendliness of the very enthusiastic team is always apparent.

ALLAN'S LOCKDOWN WALK

2¾ miles: moderate

Allow 1–2 hours. One moderate ascent and descent. On surfaced lanes throughout. There are several possible shortcuts (see map).

1 From the car park entrance turn left, passing between stables. Follow the lane uphill, bending left then right after 150 metres or so. **2** Climb more steeply to pass a house then, at a fork, take the right-hand turning. **3** Continue climbing, and follow the road right and left around a restored farm (Cae-mor). **4** Another steep section leads up to the B4579 Selattyn Road, where you turn right. **5** The B-road descends to cross a stream, then rises up the other side. Pass a turning on the right (a potential shortcut) and continue along the road ahead. **6** At a house called Bedlwyn with the date 1856 in brick, a narrow lane on the right provides another potential shortcut. **7** Ahead, the B4579 descends to cross another stream (the Nant Iorwerth) below a house, and is then crossed by a bridleway (a third possible shortcut). **8** At the next junction, turn right onto a narrow lane between hedges. This passes below a wood and a couple of houses before crossing the Nant Iorwerth again at the foot of the bridleway you crossed earlier. **9** At a road junction by a house called Pentre Garth, carry straight on (signposted Llwynmawr) back to the Mulberry Inn.

OFFA'S DYKE TASTER

5½ miles: fairly strenuous

Allow 3 hours. One long but gradual ascent and descent, plus a steep valley with steps. Several stiles. Part of the return route is along a narrow, rocky bridleway that may be overgrown in summer.

1 From the front of the Mulberry Inn, turn right between the cottage and bar (signposted to Pontfadog and Chirk). Walk past a couple of houses on the right. **2** After 200 m, turn right at a footpath sign at the entrance to a farm (Ty'n-Illwyn) before a barn. Rather than entering the farmyard, turn right through a gate into the field. Turn left and skirt round the rear of the farm, bearing left along the hillside above the hedge to a waymark post. The path continues along the hedge to a second waymark post at the end of the field. **3** Cross the field ahead, passing below the hedge on the right, then bear right round the shoulder of land before dropping left to a concealed stile. Cross the stile and another immediately ahead into a country lane. **4** Go through the gate opposite, and cross a footbridge over a stream. Bear half-right up the slope beyond, aiming for a gate below the left-hand end of a barn. **5** Turn left and follow the track in front of the farm-house, around the end of the barn. **6** Alongside the barn, turn sharp left onto a track that leads uphill into the trees. Ignore the access to a mobile home on the left and follow the track ahead that continues uphill. **7** When the track meets a metalled road beyond a gate, turn right. **8** After quarter of a mile of gradual ascent, there is a fork. Take the left-hand track, continuing to climb through the trees. **9** Another

forest track joins from the left and the gradient becomes less steep. Eventually the track leaves the woodland and views open up over the Nant Gwryd valley. **10** Pass a barn entrance on the left and continue along the farm track as it curves southwards. **11** Immediately before the track meets a road, turn left onto another stony track. **12** After quarter of a mile, this track meets a public road. Turn left. **13** After a similar distance, the road passes a farm entrance and a road heading off left. Ignore these turnings to reach a house called Plas Newydd. **14** Here, ignoring the track ahead, follow the road round to the right. **15** Take the next left at a road junction. **16** After about ¼ mile this lane crosses Offa's Dyke, here a visible earthwork. **17** Just beyond the dyke itself, turn right through a wooden kissing gate with an acorn waymark onto the Offa's Dyke Path. **18** Descend a sloping meadow to a gate into trees and then go down steps to a footbridge at the bottom of the valley. This is the "Dirty Dingle", a notoriously difficult spot on the ODP before the steps were built. **19** Climb out of the valley up the steps on the other side to a stile (looking behind you for views to Chirk Castle). **20** Continue alongside the dyke earthwork, crossing a bridleway between two stiles at the end of the field. The path follows the top of the dyke in the next field, before reaching a road at a stile. **21** Continue over the stile opposite and follow the dyke (now less prominent) along the field edge to another stile. **22** Descend the next field to another lane by a cottage. **23** Turn right here, and follow the roughly surfaced road. **24** When you meet the B4579, cross another road joining from the right and follow the main road uphill. **25** Ignore a turning on the left (signposted to Springhill Farm), continuing along the B-road. **26** At the next junction, turn right (signposted to Bronygarth). **27** After a short distance, turn left onto a signposted bridleway. **28** This green lane descends gently at first, but after half a mile narrows suddenly and becomes rougher underfoot as it runs along the bottom of a wood. **29** Eventually you emerge onto a lane; turn left and follow it downhill, skirting around a house. **30** Continue down the road to a cluster of houses, where you turn left by Nantgwryd Ucha and follow the lane up a short steep hill. **31** After you reach the top and start to descend, another lane joins from the left; carry on straight ahead for half a mile back to the Mulberry Inn.

PEN Y GWELY (7¾ miles: strenuous)

Allow 4–5 hours. One significant ascent and descent, with rocky ground in places and several stiles. The higher sections are level but there is little shelter from the weather – waterproofs recommended.

1 From the front of the Mulberry Inn, take the turning signposted to Selattyn and Oswestry, passing the end of a house (Bryn-y-Groes) on your left. **2** Walk uphill past Llwynmawr Farm (dated 1845), ignoring the left turn just after the farm. **3** At the next junction, turn right (signposted Dolywern). Walk down between houses, then, before a house called Plas Pentre, turn left onto a path leading alongside the previous house and up to a kissing gate into fields. **4** Follow the path round to the right, past an animal shelter on the right, and follow a gappy, overgrown hedge along the side of the valley. **5** In the far

right-hand corner, go through a kissing gate into the wood ahead. **6** The path winds through the trees and meets another path coming up from the right. Shortly afterwards, ignore a path off to the left at a waymark post, continuing ahead on a mostly level path. **7** Exit the woodland via another kissing gate and follow the field edge ahead to a footbridge and a further kissing gate. **8** Continue along the valley side below the field boundary to another kissing gate. At the end of the next field, beyond a farm gate, a fenced path leads below a paddock and joins a track at another gate. **9** Follow the track then, before the farm at Tal-y-Garth Ucha, take a sharp left by the first house. Beyond a gate take the path on the right, above a woodshed, to a second gate, and climb the slope above fields to a house, where a fenced path leads up to the road. **10** Cross over and climb the steps in the garden opposite to a stile. **11** The path climbs steeply up the right-hand side of the meadow beyond. Towards the top of the field the gradient eases; there is a stile in the right-hand corner, but it may be easier to bypass it to the left. **12** Join a stony, tree-lined track that continues uphill. **13** At the top of the slope, indicated by a waymark post on the right, turn left off the track along a stone wall leading through gorse towards the hilltop. **14** Cross a tumbledown wall and cross open pasture with isolated rocky outcrops and gorse bushes to a waymark post. **15** After a second waymark, bear right, passing to the left of a rock pile topped by gorse. At the far side, against a gorsy backdrop, is a third waymark post. Beyond it, and a little hard to find among the gorse, an indistinct path leads sharply downhill to the right of a fence. **16** Look out for a stile on the left, which crosses the fence and leads onto a path below an overgrown low crag. **17** Further along, the path drops down to a corner below a disused stile; pass through a gate in the fence on the right and walk down the side of a field towards a barn. A gate leads past the car park and barn out to a track. **18** Turn right through a gate and follow the track for half a mile until you reach a road. **19** Turn left and walk uphill for 500 m, ignoring a farm track to the right. **20** At a road junction, disregard the turning to Selattyn and continue along the road to the right. **21** The road climbs gradually then begins to descend. **22** Just beyond Springhill Farm on the left, turn right onto a track that crosses the top of a valley and climbs slightly. **23** After about 200 m, cross a stile in the fence on your left into a field. Bear right to another stile that comes into view at the top of the field. **24** Beyond this fence the path becomes indistinct as it crosses the rushy ground ahead of you. Keep slightly left until you can see a green-painted bridleway fingerpost and head towards it. **25** Don't follow the descending bridleway, but turn left along a grassy track beside the wire fence, heading towards a conifer plantation, with views to the Shropshire Hills. **26** At the end of the wood, go through a gate and follow the track left of the trees to a metal barn. **27** From here, an obvious track leads down towards the farm at Llechrydau. **28** At a junction of tracks, bear left to cross a stream and follow the track left of the farm buildings up to a road. **29** Turn left for a short distance, then turn right through a gate at the end of small conifer plantation. **30** Follow the track along the edge of a sheep pasture, staying on the track as it bends left by a gate. **31** At another