

The Neuadd Holiday Planner

Here's our personal advice for finding some of the best places
Feel free to take this guide or tear pages out for walks

Text Julia on **07854 773419** if you have any questions or would like advice

Walking the Meadow Path

Links you to the canal, the town & mountains.
See back page to get you started

Drive the Mountain Road

It's mandatory! Turn left at bottom of our drive.
Drive just a couple on minutes and you'll be above 1,300 feet with gorgeous views.
You can turn round in the big lay-by or carry on to the T-junction to turn right and head along/down to the valley bottom. Awe inspiring views. At the bottom turn right at the T-junction to head back to Llangattock.

Maps & Guides

Please don't take our Ordnance Survey maps or walking guide books off site (people tend to photograph the bits they want to refer to), we don't want them getting grubby. You can buy copies in Crickhowell (see next page) .

Have a gorgeous holiday. Julia

Crickhowell Shops, Cafes & Pubs



Nicknamed "Knightsbridge on Usk"
Crickhowell has fought off retail chains and become renowned for its independent shops.

There's a family owned department store, fashion, jewellery, outdoor adventure shop, bookshop, off-licence, general store, butchers, grocery, bakery, newsagents and tourist information centre.

There are several good pubs and cafes. Here's our pick...



Latte Da



The Bear of Crickhowell.



30 years in the same family the Bear is a traditional coaching inn which is very walker friendly. We especially like the ale and the kitchen is very fast (and open longer hours than most pub kitchens).



The Dragon Inn is rated above the Bear by many guests for a special meal.

Large garden.

On sunny days it's well worth a drink in the beer garden of the Bridge End Inn

(Closed at time of printing due to flooding in 2020)



Tourist Information and Kit

Crickhowell Adventure.



Maps
Advice
Books
Kit

Tourist Information Office



Bookish
Café & Bookshop.



Favourite Cafes

Some of our personal favourites for a coffee, tea, ice cream or light bite....



A: Latte Da, Crickhowell: Friendly, relaxed, light and airy. Opposite the visitors centre. Good for drinks and cakes, also offer some light meals. Garden out back.

B: Vamos, Crickhowell: Alfresco bistro dining in large courtyard area. Nice cakes. Breakfast and lunches. Good reviews and friendly staff.

C: The Art Shop and Chapel Cafe, Abergavenny: Cafe and casual restaurant (licenced). Interesting creative, health oriented food and modern vibe. The space is shared with an art shop which adds ambience. Can get very busy. Out the back of the market you will see the Chapel across the little stream.

D: Fig Tree Expresso, Abergavenny. Small cafe with a personal touch. Very good quality cakes and drinks. No savouries. Wonderful reviews. We swap between here and the Chapel. Small garden out back.

E: Cwtch Cafe, Abergavenny. Good quality cafe with a traditional feel. Telegraph newspaper rated as in top 30 in Britain.

F: Afternoon Tea at The Angel, Abergavenny: If you need a treat The Angel take afternoon tea very seriously. Maybe opt for the Champagne option! They make it feel like a special event whilst managing to keep things very relaxed.

G: Afternoon Tea at The Gliffaes Hotel, near Crickhowell: The Gliffaes is a country house hotel set in extensive grounds and with a focus on fishing. The atmosphere washes over you when you walk in. You might just overhear an old general talking about when he was in Africa! Afternoon tea isn't on a level with The Angel but neither is the price. The atmosphere is very welcoming and relaxed. There is a large conservatory and lovely terrace over-looking the river Usk. Nice restaurant too.

H: Courtyard Café. Near Skirrid Mountain: The Courtyard café is our tea/coffee stop on a favourite bike ride. Its essentially an art gallery located on a farm, with a small and simple cafe. A good place to pop into after a walk up Skirrid Mountain.

I: Sugarloaf Vineyard, Abergavenny: This is a truly exceptional place. Seating is outdoors or semi-outdoors. They serve cakes, cheese, toasties and meats as well as hot drinks and beer/wine. Good views, lots of fresh air and a relaxed 'in the country' atmosphere. Can combine with a walk on Sugarloaf Mountain (road to the mountain carpark is a bit scary)



J: Riverside Café, Glasbury: If you are having a trip to Hay on Wye, taking the drive over Gospel Pass or renting canoes on the river Wye then this is a nice place to take a break. They have a terrace right by the river. The indoor area is very light and airy.

K: Kitchen Garden, Ty Mawr, Llangorse: Serving produce from their beautiful kitchen garden this is a good place to combine with a walk to Llangasty Church and the nearby bird-hide overlooking Llangorse lake. Ty Mawr is an historic house that acts as a home & HQ for a family business that specialises in sustainable building materials for healthier homes. Gorgeous place. Marvel at Rae's amazing garden.

L: Walled Garden, Treberfydd: Very close to the Kitchen Garden so visits here can also combine walks to Llangasty church, the bird hide and Llangorse lake. This Victorian walled garden is a plant nursery that feels like a welcoming haven. You can sense the place is more than a business... it's clear that Alison adores the place. A visit here is essentially to experience the nursery, perhaps pick up a few plants. The café is serve yourself and rustic.

M: Talgarth Mill: Working watermill (you can tour it yourself or join a guided tour) with bakery and café.

N: The Old Barn Tea Room, Torpantau: Exactly what you'd hope to find in the mountains. Old fashioned, simple. Home made food. Near Pontsticill reservoir.

Favourite Pubs/Restaurants

Not an exhaustive list, and in no particular order, but these are the places we most often choose from when we have visitors or are heading out on our own.....



A: The Horse Shoe, Llangattock: Recently completely remodelled. Easy walking distance. This pub feels like a locals pub and you may be put off by people standing around outside but its very friendly. The beer is good and the food is simple pub-grub but nicely done.

B: The Vine Tree, Llangattock. Remodelled, in 2018 this is more of a restaurant than a pub. The decor is modern, and the kitchens are open sided so you can watch the chefs at work. Prices are higher than most but we've had good feedback.

C: The Bear of Crickhowell: Large coaching inn with a good range of real ales and a remarkably fast kitchen. This pub has been in the same family for over 30 years. Tends to have longer daytime kitchen hours than others. Food is fairly good and has a wide choice. A really memorable and special pub. Often frequented by walkers, and the staff tend to welcome dogs (sometimes hungry looking dogs are brought a surprise bowl of food!)

D: The Dragon, Crickhowell: Known for good food. Guests rate it more highly than the Bear for a special meal. Huge garden at the back. We particularly like the main bar room and tend to head to the Dragon for meals rather than just drinks.

E: The Bridge End Inn, Crickhowell: The main reason for going here is to enjoy the beer garden overlooking the river and bridge on sunny days.

F: The Crown at Pantigelli: Located on the other side of Sugarloaf on the Old Hereford Road, north of Abergavenny. Known for good food. Food oriented pub but has a small bar area if you just fancy a drink. Very well run, family feel. Best to book. Strict on food times.

G: The Dragons Head, Llangenny. Simple country village pub. Nice walks by the river. Friendly, relatively in-expensive pub-grub.

H: The New Inn, Bwlch. Located on the A40 heading towards Brecon, on the left as you drive through Bwlch. Doesn't look appealing from the outside but this small pub is a **quite special**. It has a fresh, vibrant, well loved feel. The menu is very "pub oriented", simple but nicely cooked. The beer is first class. They run a small bunkhouse so you often find a younger clientele. At weekends **you need to book if you want to eat** (it's very popular). The car park is small so you may need to hunt around the village for a space.



I: The Kestrel, near Crickhowell: The best food and wine near Crickhowell. This recently renovated family run gastro pub takes a real pride in the quality of its food. We've had several comments like "that was the best meal I've had in years". The pub has a personalised rather than a polished/commercial feel. Richard and his family lived in France for many years and take more care on the wine than most pubs. Open Friday and Saturday evenings only.

J: The Red Lion, Llangorse: Very popular pub with a speciality for pies (they do other food too). A good place to drop into after a walk by Llangorse lake.

K: The Felin Fach Griffin: Just off the A470 north of Brecon. Very professionally run food oriented pub. Restaurant style fine dining food but the atmosphere is of a warm welcoming top quality pub. Beer is good. In fact everything is good!

L: Foyles of Glasbury: Off A438 near Talgarth. This restaurant and hotel has a very modern and airy feel. Service and food are excellent.

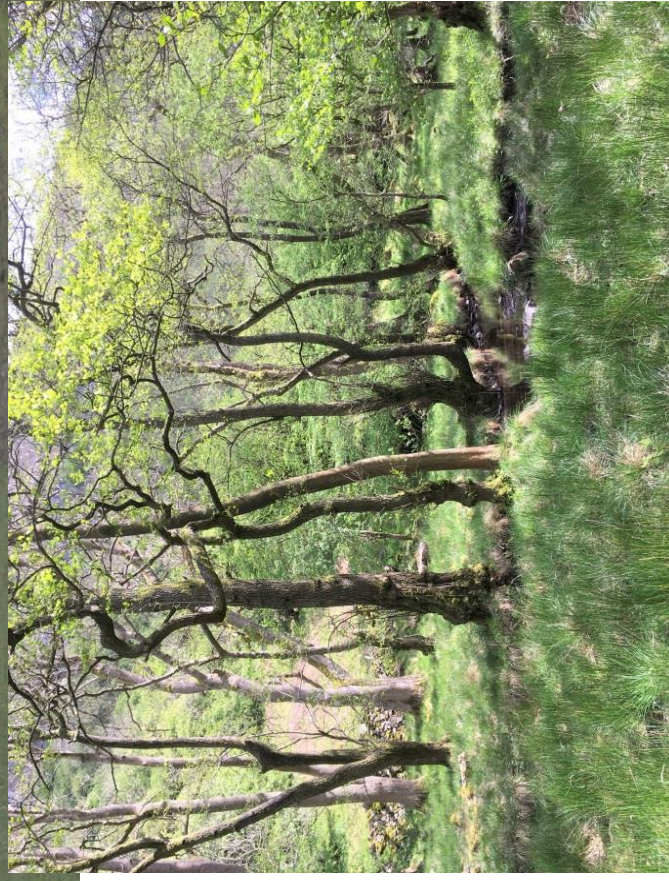
M : The Hardwick, on the A40 East of Abergavenny. Top quality fine dining. Michel Roux Jr refers to this as his "Favourite Welsh Restaurant". Wow.

N : Llantony Priory. Breath-taking location. Feels like Tolkien's middle-earth. We don't tend to eat here but it's a good destination for a walk and a beer. The hikers bar is in a stone vaulted room slightly below ground. You can also sit out on the grass. Very basic. Very Stunning.

O: The Goose and Cuckoo, Upper Llanover. Ideal if you like to seek out very old fashioned country pubs. This one is like stepping back in time. You have to accept it's not 'gastro', and it's not polished in any way. Simple is the best description. The food is clearly home cooked, wholesome and good quality. Their website has info on local walks. Two pub fanatics that visited 20,000 UK pubs over 33 years rated this pub as number 3!

P: The Towpath Inn, Gilwern. A good one for evening bike ride along the canal. Relaxed pub with a fresh feel. Have visiting street food vendors (check ahead). Wonderful heated outdoor bench.

On your doorstep... Beautiful Craig Y Cilau

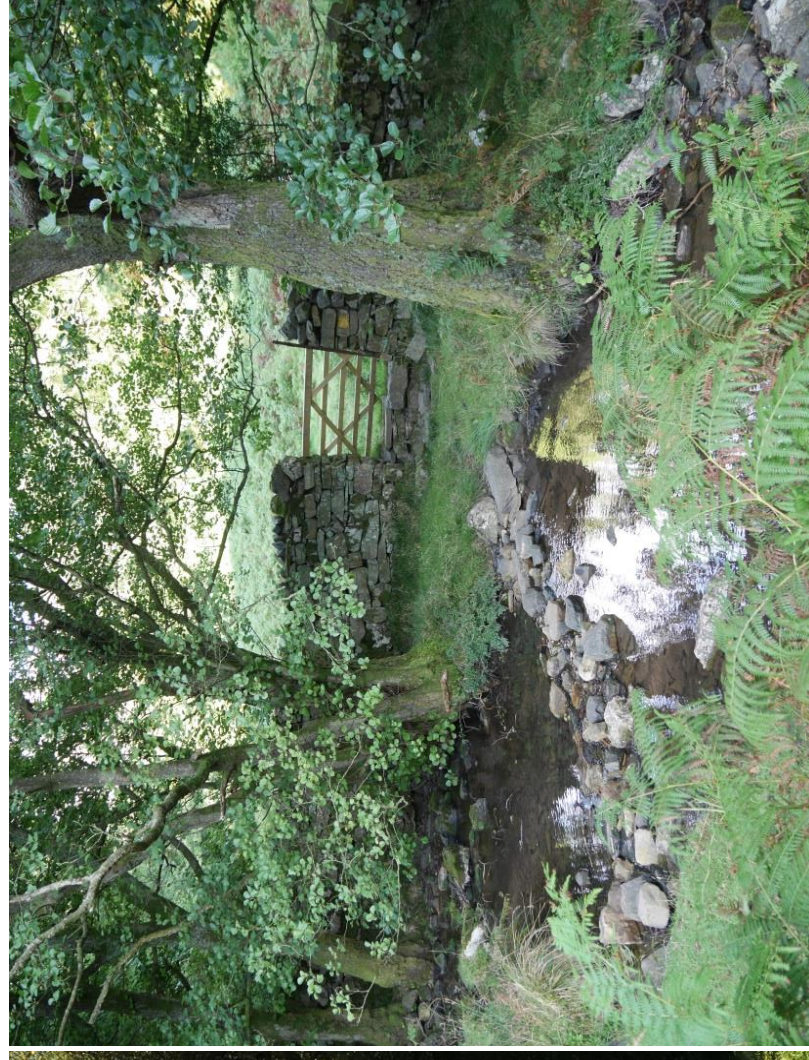


Where we take our friends....

This walk feels like an adventure. Part of the climb follows the path of a mountain stream. At times you'll be concentrating on where to place your feet, you'll keep getting glimpses of the crags on Llangattock Mountain and you'll ascend into a lovely wooded valley. This area is all part of the National Nature Reserve of Craig Y Cilau. It's worth googling to learn about the rare habitat, the unique Whitebeams, the bats and the extensive cave systems.

There is a lovely single-track path that climbs across the open mountainside up to the old tramway running high on the mountainside just under the cliffs. The cliff line bowls around above the woodland you've just walked through and starts to open up huge views across the national park. Its worth taking a torch to take a look inside some of the caves you will see on the tramway.

You will see many footpaths on the map, so you can adapt things, but the route we describe is our favourite. We can't believe we live so close to this lovely secret!



YOU ARE HERE



1

7

2

8

3

6

4

5

Craig Y Cilau
2+ Hours Strenuous Walk



1 KM

© OpenStreetMap contributors

1 : To the Incline

Take the mown path down our field to the personnel gate then turn right and follow the old tramway. **You will reach a stile that's up a few rough steps.**

You will now see the tramway rising steeply up the mountainside "The Incline"

Doggy Note: There are one or two places on this walk that your dog may need to do the equivalent of getting over a gate. If this is a worry then you may prefer to look up other routes through Craig Y Cilau in the walking guides in your cottage.

2 : Wiggly Path

Go a short way up The Incline and look for the permissive path that leads off on the right, this starts out running just above a field boundary at the edge of the woods.

This path is **quite rocky** and uneven. When you get closer to the stream it starts to climb and gets quite narrow. At times you may need to hunt for the path but you will see it's well trodden when you find it. Keep the stream on your right.

A good landmark is when you enter a level clearing where the stream has eroded a steep loose curved bank. The stream disappears underground here, you may notice the river bed becomes dry near the big curved bank.

The path wanders a bit away from the stream to ease the next short climb and then comes back alongside the stream where you can enjoy a fairly level section that emerges out of the trees into a more grassy area. The stream widens here. **Look out for the stepping stones and gate.**

3 : Wispy Woods

Cross the stream using the stepping stones, go through the gate, turn left and pass a small dam/water capture scheme. Follow the main path that leads up the centre of the valley. Its a Landrover track in places and you should have a wooded hillside to your right (full of bluebells in May) and an interesting lush marshy woodland slightly below you to your left.

4 : Easily Missed Turns

Look out for where the woodland stops and the hillside to your right becomes a grassy meadow. There's no fence so its easy to miss. The path splits here and you need turn sharp left and look for a pathway sign over by the stream (a fancy boardwalk gets you over the wet bit).

Head slightly uphill with the stone wall on your right and you will come to some footpath signs. Turn right here and after a few trees you will find some more footpath signs. This is where you turn off sharp left (pretty much doubling back) and start to climb again

5 : Diagonal Climb

The path now climbs diagonally up the side of the valley and you start to look down on the woodland you've travelled through. Just keep climbing and enjoy the views that open up. There is a path off to the right at one point but ignore it.

Eventually **you will appear onto a distinct wide level grassy area.** This is an old tramway and you'll see it running along under the cliffs. Bear left and begin to enjoy walking on the level !!

6 : Promenade

Payback time. Enjoy the views and follow the tramway. Keep a look out for caves and gravel tracks that lead up to their entrances.

This is a long section and eventually you will approach a house on the left of the tramway. Turn down hill just before the house and walk down to the tarmac road.

7 : Back to The Incline

Keep heading down the road. Pass some cottages and you come to a sharp right hand bend in the road.

Turn left off the road here and onto a fairly level footpath that runs along the top of a conifer woodland. When the conifers stop you will be at the top of The Incline you were looking up at the end of stage 1. **Look for the bench seat.** Its a good place to have last look at the views.

8 : Choose your descent

The quickest way home is straight down the incline - it runs down the edge of the conifer woodland and drops you back to the stile at the end of Stage 1. Retrace your steps from there back to The Neuadd.

Because The Incline is steep and not especially rewarding we often take the following gentler path: Stand by the bench seat, with your back to the seat. ie Facing up hill. Walk forward a few yards and start hunting for a skinny path that heads off to the right. It starts out fairly level but then begins to descend gently and will deliver you to the first set of stepping stones you used earlier (end of stage 2). From here retrace your steps down the Wiggly Path and back to The Neuadd.

We like this because you get a second chance to walk the Wiggly Path. The reason for describing the route down The Incline is incase our preferred route is too overgrown with bracken, or if you find yourself in a hurry to get back for lunch!

Cycling

As keen cyclists and mountain bikers ourselves we can explain routes or provide GPX files for you. Bikes can be hired and delivered by Drover Cycles or Bikes & Hikes. Just let us know what you have in mind and we can send you suggestions. Here's some of the types of ride you might consider:

Quiet Lanes: Perhaps taking in a pub, a lake, a café or a breathtaking mountain pass. An all day tour or a 1 hour blast.

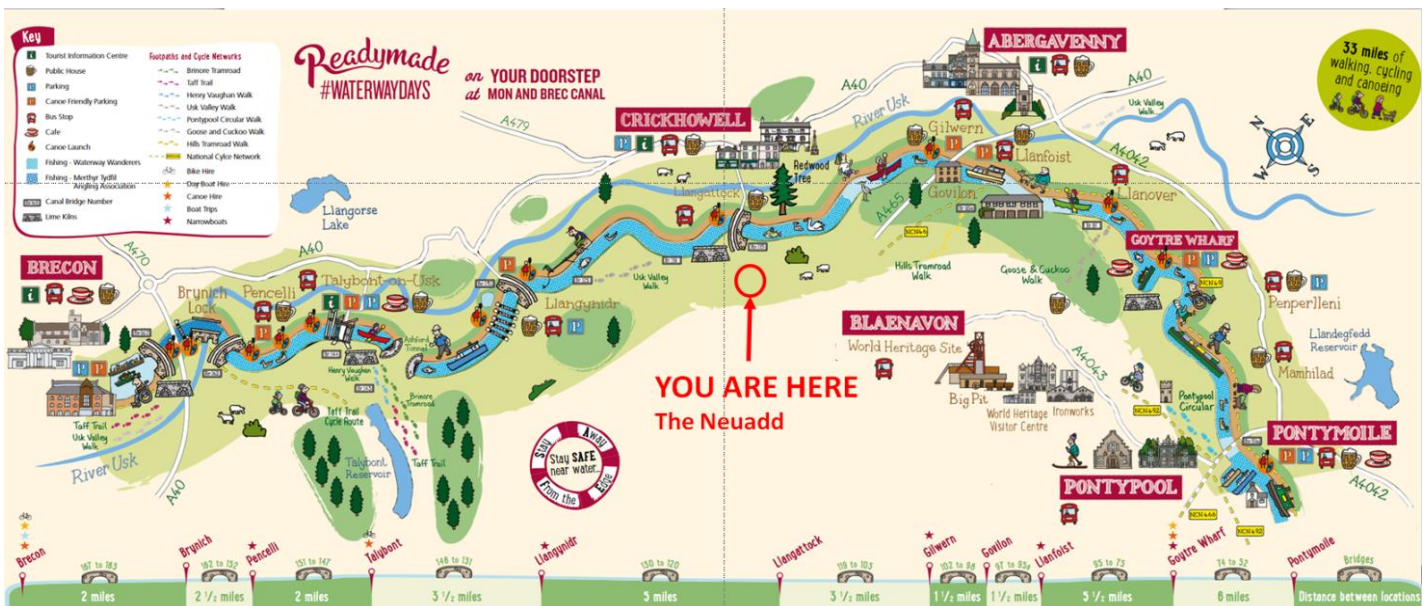
Hill Climbs: We have a number of suggestions including a 6km 400m climb from our door, with spectacular switch backs and mountain views for added drama.

DH and XC Mountain Biking: Down-hilling and natural cross country riding brought us to this area. It's pretty exceptional. We have a google map on our website showing publicised trails. (We have others)

Traffic Free Cycleways: We are right by the **Brecon and Monmouthshire Canal** which links into a disused railway line and connects to a wider network of Sustrans routes (some of which are traffic free or virtually traffic free). Good café's and Pubs.

Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal

We are located very close to the canal. A great resource for Cycling, Walking and Running.



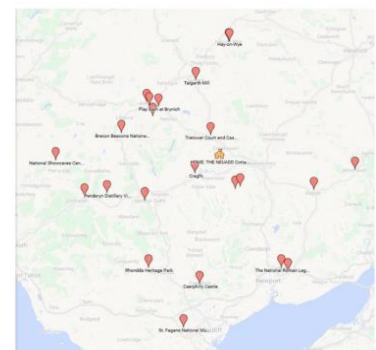
Days Out & Visitor Attractions

If you look under "Stunning Location" on our cottages website www.theneuadd.co.uk you'll find some maps like this one.

When you click on them you can look at our comments about each attraction, see the location and link to the website of the attraction.

We have done the same for mountain bike trail centres.

- ⚔️ Clough Climbing Centre
- 🏠 HOME: THE NEUADD
- 🏰 Raglan Castle
- 🏠 Railway Station Visitor Centre
- 🏰 Tredegar Castle Fortified House
- 🎮 Play Barn
- 🏡 Adventure Farm
- 🏞️ Show Caves
- 🏛️ Big Pit Mine & Museum
- 🏞️ National Park Visitors Centre
- 🌄 Wonderful Country
- 🏰 Talgarth Hall
- 🏰 Brecon Cathedral
- 🏛️ Regimental Museum
- 🏠 Hay on Wye Town
- 🏞️ Brecon Heritage Park
- 🏰 Caerphilly Castle
- 🏛️ Brecon Museum
- 🏰 Monmouth Town
- 🏛️ Blaenavon Ironworks
- 🏛️ Independent Cinema
- 🏛️ National Museum of Flight
- 🏠 Tea & Resort Coffee Makers
- 🛍️ Shopping at Trege Malls



Canal-side Walk, and up from Bridge 112



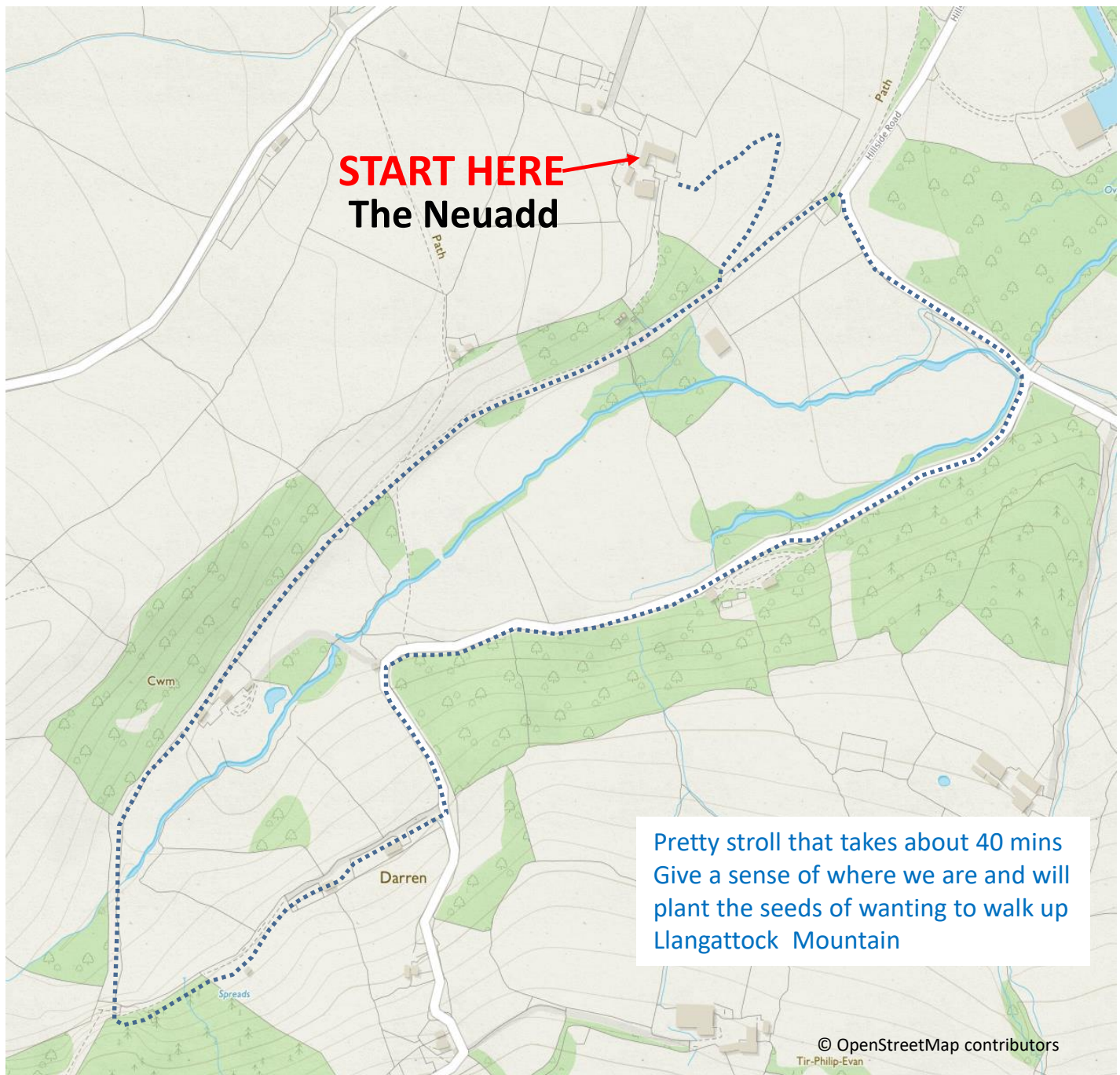
From our courtyard take the mown path down our meadow and turn left at the personnel gate at the bottom. Follow map to reach the canal.

To get onto the canal tow path use the stile or follow the green diversion on the map to avoid the stile if your not into rock climbing !

At Bridge 112 cross the canal and head gently uphill to find the lane. You get a good sense of 'being in the landscape' here and the walk back along the lane is quiet with good views.

Takes about 50 mins

Short Walk using Lower Tramway



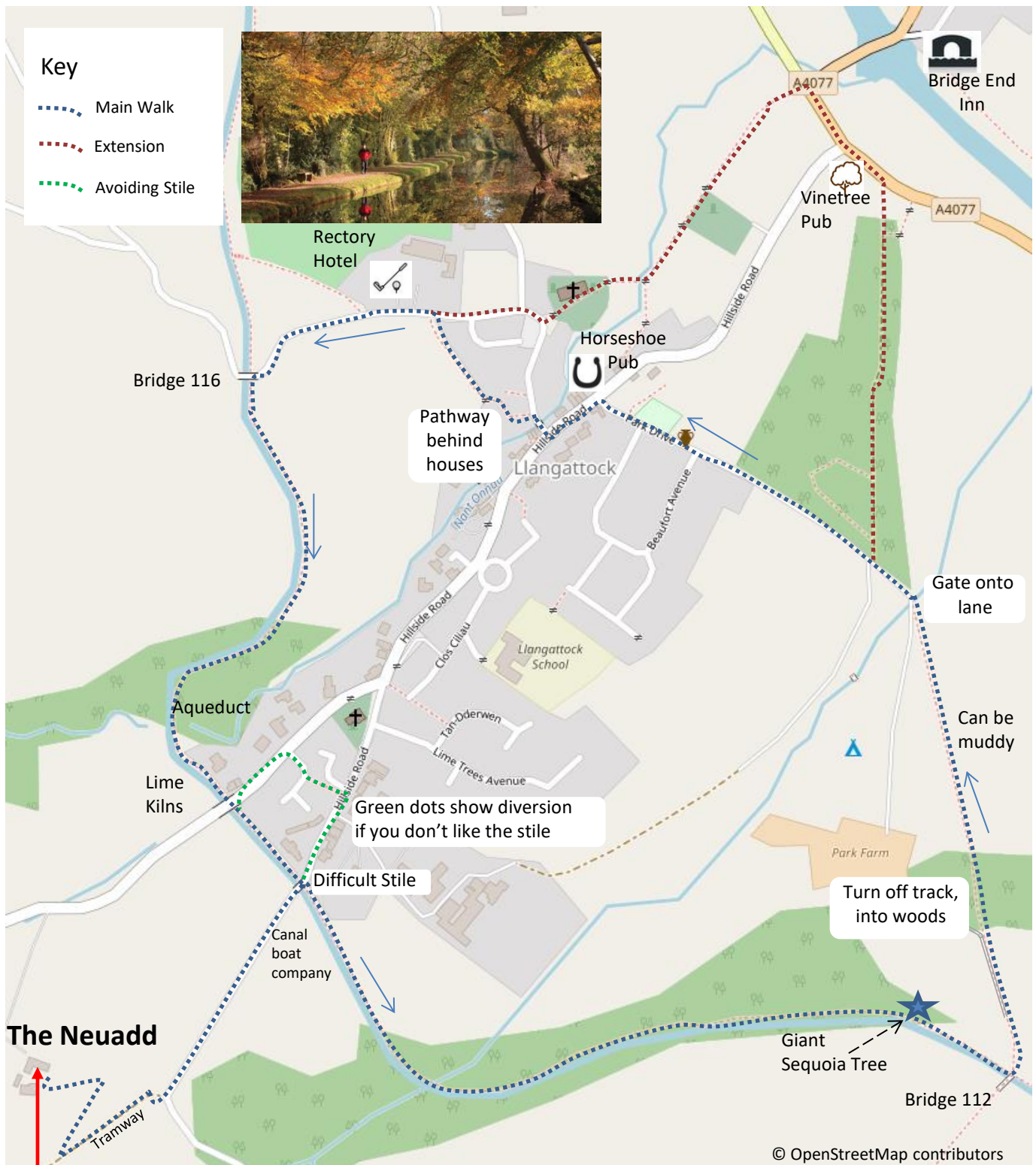
From our courtyard take the mown path down our meadow to the personnel gate at the bottom.

Turn right and follow the footpath. This is an old tramway (look for railway sleepers re-used as gate posts). As you approach the hillside you will come to a stile with a steep wide incline ahead.

Go over the stile and turn left through the gate. This vehicle track leads past two houses and onto a lane where you turn left down hill. Follow the lane and turn left at the T junction.

At the big right-hand bend you'll see The Neuadd and the field you walked down earlier.

Canal-side & Village Walk with Giant Redwood Tree



YOU ARE HERE

From our courtyard take the mown path down our meadow and turn left at the personnel gate at the bottom. Follow map. The “Extension” includes Vinetree Pub or if it’s sunny head over to The Bridge End Inn to enjoy the garden overlooking the river. There are riverside footpaths on the Crickhowell side of the river too. Horseshoe Pub and Rectory Hotel are options for a drink or snack. Takes about 1 hour

Pretty Stroll to Crickhowell's Independent Cafés, Pubs and Shops.



YOU ARE HERE

From our courtyard take the mown path down our meadow and turn left at the personnel gate at the bottom. Follow map, turning left in Llangattock Village towards the Church and through the churchyard. Takes around 25mins and a bit longer on way back. (Crickhowell Taxis 01873 811764 costs about £12 if you fancy a lift back up to The Neuadd)

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