

**12.4km/7.75 miles**  
**Llangollen**

From the ruins of Castell Dinas Bran you can enjoy stunning views of the Eglwysseg escarpment and the Vale of Llangollen. The medieval castle was built on the site of an Iron Age hillfort thought to have been founded by Bran, and according to one of many legends it was the fortress of the Holy Grail. Built in the 1260s by the lords of Powys, the stone castle was deliberately burnt and deserted a few years later by the Welsh garrison to prevent use by the English.

**The walk**

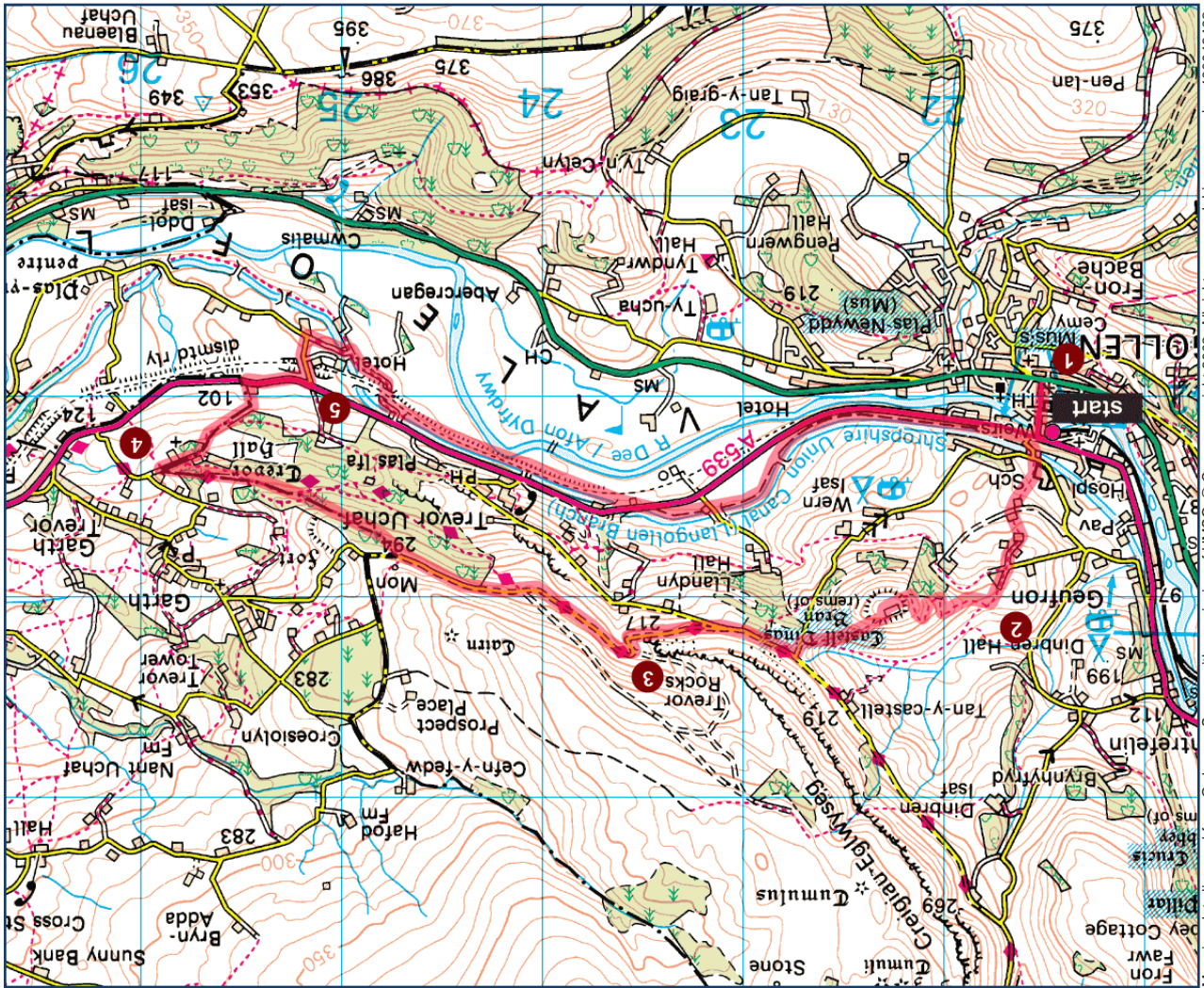
- 1** From car park, bear R in Market Street to a crossroads and turn L. Cross bridge over River Dee and turn L then, after a few metres, bear R on a path to Llangollen Canal. Turn R and soon L to cross a bridge over canal. Cross lane to steps and a footpath, which becomes enclosed between fences. At path's end cross over a lane and continue uphill on path signed 'To the Castle'. Follow R-hand boundary of a field and, after passing a house on R, go through a kissing-gate. Walk uphill on track, cross over lane and continue to gates on hillside below Castell Dinas Bran.
- 2** Walk ahead beside a L-hand fence to a fork, and veer R, uphill. Higher up, path zig-zags. On reaching top of Dinas Bran, admire the views and walk through the castle ruins. Cross ditch and go downhill on a path to kissing-gate. Continue downhill to kissing-gate in R-hand fence, beside a lane.
- 3** Turn L and go through a gate next to a cattle grid. Turn R on another lane to have Trevor Rocks above, L, and views of the Vale of Llangollen, R. Ignore lane on R and, after about 1km, go R on a track with an acorn symbol. Follow to a gate marked private, then bear R on path beside L-hand wall. It bears L at a corner to pass below house and enters woodland. Go through two gates and pass above house. On reaching a footpath signpost, bear L and continue along Ofra's Dyke Path, passing signpost. Pass a field on L and go downhill through trees to a kissing-gate and track.
- 4** Turn R and pass a track to Trevor church, L. On reaching high wall at end of track, go L to a broad gate. Follow track that bears R, gradually downhill, with good views of Vale, L. Pass trees on R and, at a corner of wood, go L to a stile. Cross two more stiles, passing house, R. Turn R along pavement beside A539 for 300m.
- 5** Turn L along lane with sign for Bryn Howell Hotel. Ignore drive to hotel and walk down lane to a L bend, then go R on a track, which bears L to cross a bridge over Llangollen Canal. Turn R and join towpath. With canal, R, follow path under a number of bridges (from bridge 41 you can reach The Sun pub). After passing Llangollen Moorings, you will reach Llangollen Wharf where you can retrace your steps to start.

**moderate**

**DETAILS**  
Country Walking ID 2931  
Mag Route 16,  
October 2007  
Region Wales  
Area Denbighshire  
**Length of walk**  
12.4km/7.75 miles  
**Time needed** 4 hours  
**Difficulty** Moderate

**IS THIS WALK FOR YOU?**  
**Terrain** Steep climb and descent at start, followed by easier walking along lanes, woodland paths and towpath  
**Stiles** 3  
**Parking** Car park in Market Street, Llangollen, grid ref SJ213420  
**Start grid ref** SJ215419  
**Nearest town** Llangollen  
**Refreshments** Pub on route. Plenty of choice in Llangollen  
**Public toilets** Near the start  
**Public transport** Buses from Wrexham, Denbigh and Dolgellau  
**MAPS**  
Ordnance Survey Explorer 255 or 256; Landranger 117

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