

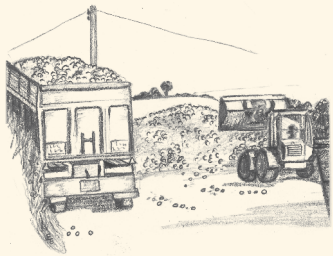
There are over 50 nesting boxes on the farm and the lake was made to encourage wildlife. Water lilies, bulrushes, butterflies and dragonflies abound and there are ducks, moorhens and frogs in evidence.



The Lake

Carry on around the end of the lake and then left to join a main track. Keep left and follow it round and up to woodland on the right, just below White House Farm. Turn right and cut across below the woods and the farmhouse garden to a driveway. Bear right down this to the road. Beware of traffic. Descend right a short distance and enter Ruthlin Orchard on the left.

This orchard and Coedanghred Orchard next to the parking area produce apples, a mix of bittersweets including Dabinett and Vilberie. These are used for making the award winning Apple County Cider. These apples, harvested mechanically from



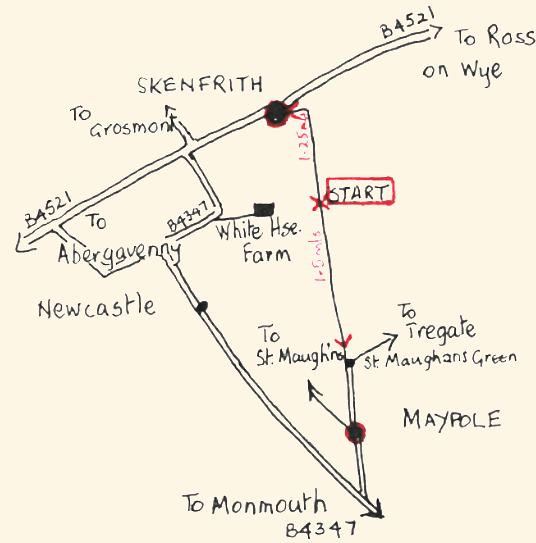
Gathering up the cider apples at the parking area

the second week in September to the first week in December, are transported to the farmyard for washing and pressing. The juice is stored with added yeast and after racking, it is pumped into barrels and taken to the bottling and labelling plant.

Walk straight across to the far corner and onto the road near the parking area.

Visit the farm shop for a tasting of delicious cider.

Drive to Skenfrith to join the B4521, near the river. Turn left, keep on the B road and pick up direction signs. Park at the farm shop. Entry on foot is forbidden.



Shop opens : Monday to Saturday 10 - 6.  
Sunday 11 - 5.

Booking is advisable for groups.  
Telephone: 01600 750835  
[www.applecountycider.co.uk](http://www.applecountycider.co.uk)



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# AN ORCHARD WALK

Over undulating land in the beautiful Monnow Valley



Start: Parking area with block walling.  
GR:463194 on the Maupole – Skenfrith Road.  
1 ½ miles from St Maughans Green.  
1 ¼ miles from Skenfrith.

Distance : 3 miles (4.5km) Allow: 2 hours

The walk follows public footpaths on a working farm.

This is not 'right to roam' countryside

The nature of the farming in relation to the crops produced, the use of vehicles and heavy machinery, and the spraying programmes have health and safety implications.

Please keep strictly to the public rights of way, keep dogs on leads and clean up any fouling.

Climb 120 metres on this section.



From the parking area cross the road and take the stile next to a metal field gate. Walk up diagonally right to the corner stile and, via two series of steps, go up through the woodland to emerge at a T-junction.

Go right to the fence and stay this side of the stile. Turn left and keep close to the boundary on the right to reach the top above the steps and apple trees. Turn left.

Note the terracing of this orchard, the first of its type in Britain when it was created by Jimmy McConnell in the late 1960's

– so unique, Ministry of Agriculture officials made an inspection and took notes on how it was done. This was the start of a change from mixed farming to fruit.



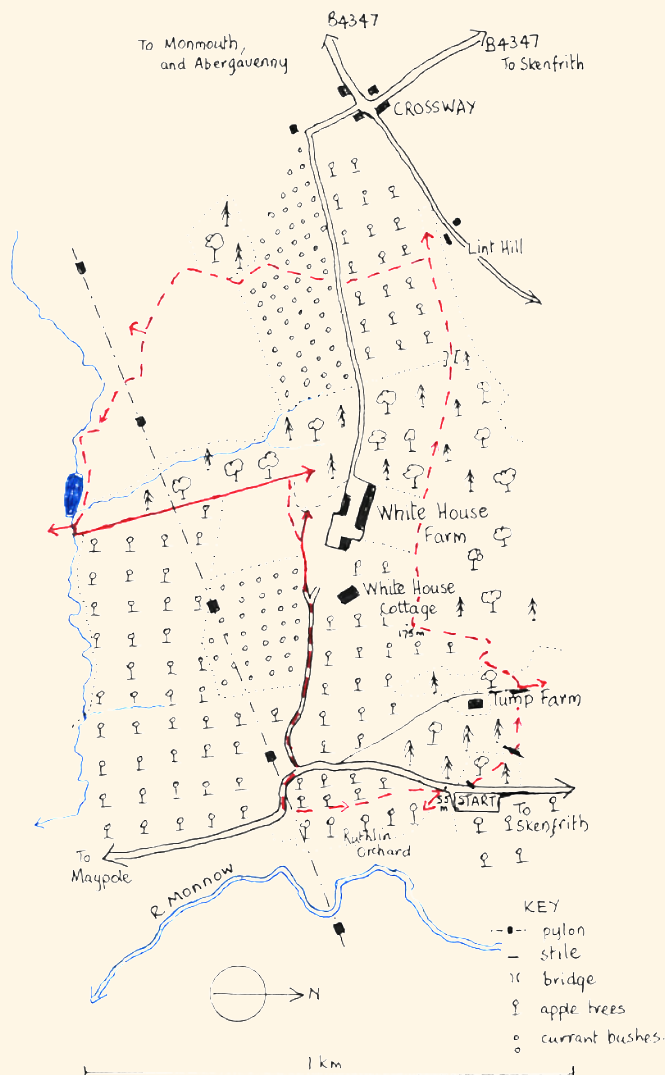
Terracing

Hives of disease free bees come from Holland every year to help the healthy local bee population pollinate the trees.



Buzzard

### Orchard Walk Route



The farm is owned by the McConnel family.

The apple trees, covering about 150 acres of the 480 acre farm, are different bittersweet varieties such as Fiona, Hastings, Tremletts Bitter and Yarlington Mill.



Spotted woodpecker

There are 130 acres of managed woodlands. The path along the top of the hill affords extensive views across south Monmouthshire.

Continue for 800 metres with the boundary on the right to a small bridge. Cross this and stay in the same direction for about 200 metres. Turn left and go down between two orchards to the driveway.

Several varieties of blackcurrants are grown over 100 acres. This allows for the staggering of mechanical harvesting from the second week in July through to mid-August. They are sold for making juice. Varieties include Ben Alder, Ben Avon and Ben Gairn; having been bred at The James Hutton Institute in Scotland they are prefixed 'Ben' (meaning mountain).



Blackcurrants & little owl nesting box

Proceed right and almost immediately left to walk down the main path between the bushes. Just over the rise go right to the corner of a wood. Follow the boundary down and around left. Keep close to the tree lined stream (ignore the bridge and stile on the right) and get to a lake.