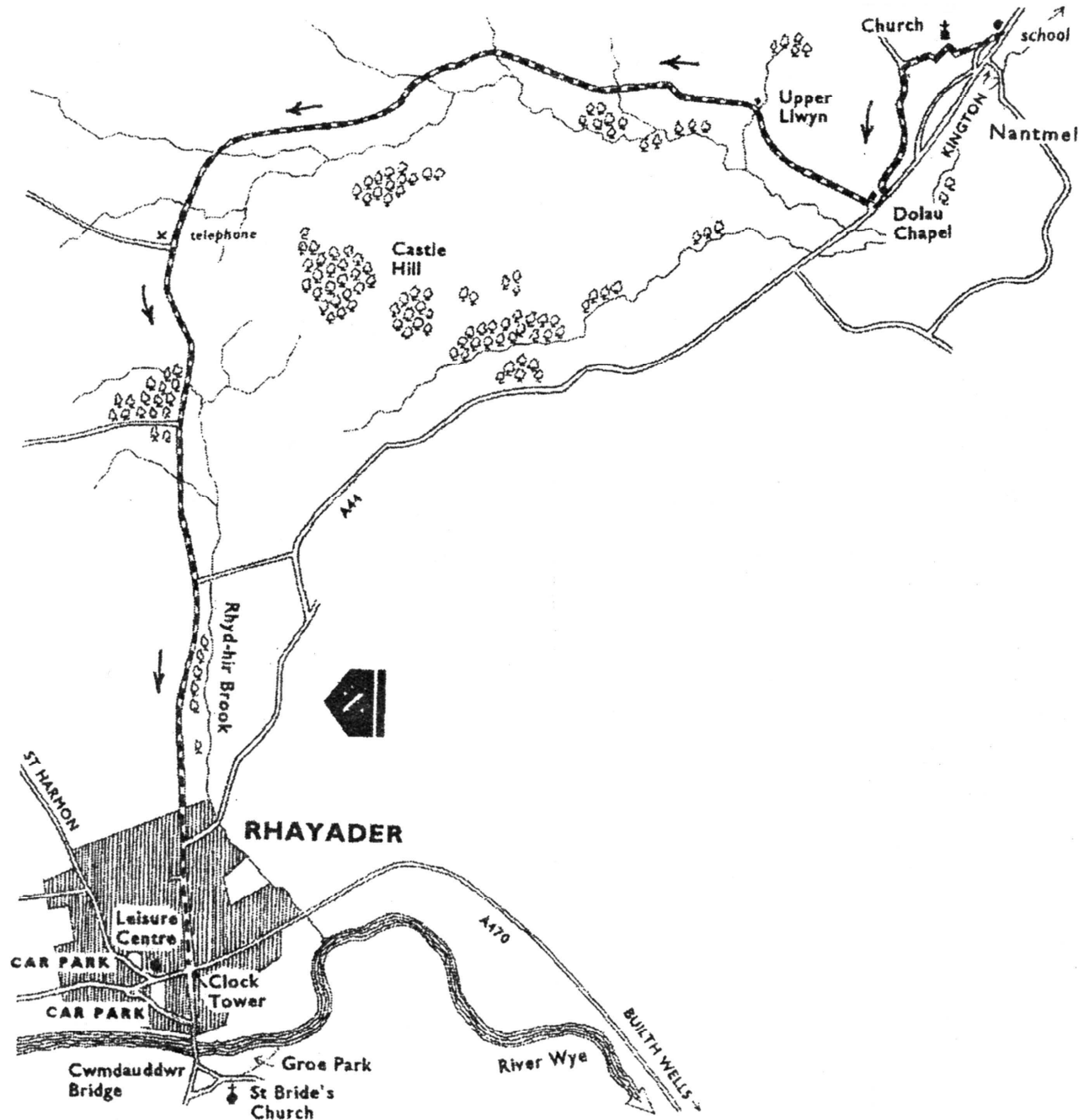


# Rhayader Walks

## 'Castle Hill Circuit'



Distance: 6 miles

Time: 3 hours (approx)

This is a six mile linear walk along pleasant country lanes, making use of a local bus service to get to the starting point. Suitable for everyone, with only one short hill at the start of the walk. No special footwear required, just comfortable.

Bus timetables are subject to change.

# Rhayader Walks

## 'Castle Hill Circuit'

From the main car park opposite Rhayader Leisure Centre, take the Liandrindod Wells bus. Alight at Nantmel School, observing the War Memorial in the car park opposite. The village school serves the scattered rural community and once had as headmaster the author, H.L.V Fletcher ('Shepherds Tump' and other works with a Welsh setting). He lived in the now demolished School House, many years ago.

Now walk up the lane to the left of the school, which shortly crosses the line of the Elan Aqueduct, carrying water from the Elan Valley to Frankley Beeches, west of Birmingham. Note the arches aqueduct bridge behind the school, rather like a railway viaduct, although rail never reached here in spite of plans as late as 1924 to build a line from the small terminus at New Radnor (now a caravan site) to a junction with the Mid Wales line at Rhayader.

Now on the right the splendid lytch gate of St. Cynllo's Church can be seen. The old church is worth a visit—the antecedents of Prince Edward's wife, Sophie Rhys-Jones are believed to have lived in the area. Leaving the church, continue up the lane to a 'T' junction at which point, turn left downhill, with a view into the small valley of the Afon Dulas to your left. At the foot of the lane which joins the main A44 road, continue in the same direction for 150 yards, and turn right along the lane past the Dolau Chapel.

Follow this lane, listening out for the occasional vehicle. The lane may be muddy in places but not so much that the walker cannot appreciate the extensive views to the left and right. The rounded hill to your left (around which the lane circles) is known as Castle Hill. There is a good all-round view from the summit (there is a field path not on today's itinerary which passes close to it)



Swallows by Pam Knight

After about a further two miles, there is a telephone box, ignore the right turn here and continue along the lane which is now heading directly for Rhayader, passing several farms to the right and left. After another mile or so, the Elan Valley comes into view, followed by the first house in Rhayader itself. The stream to your left is Rhyd-hir-Brook (literally 'long ford' through which the main road that you now reach must have splashed). Shortly, Rhayader's East Street is in view, with the Clock Tower near which are several places of refreshment.

## Please follow the County Code

- Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work
- Guard against all risk of fire
- Fasten all gates
- Keep your dog under close control
- Keep to public paths across farmland
- Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls
- Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone
- Take your litter home
- Help to keep all water clean
- Protect wildlife, plants and trees
- Take special care on country roads
- Make no unnecessary noise

For further information on local activities and attractions look out for information points around the town or visit:

[www.rhayader.co.uk](http://www.rhayader.co.uk)

People undertaking the walk do so at their own risk, with no responsibility being attached to the author or producer of the walk guide.

The information in this leaflet was kindly provided by Mr Jim Groucott

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