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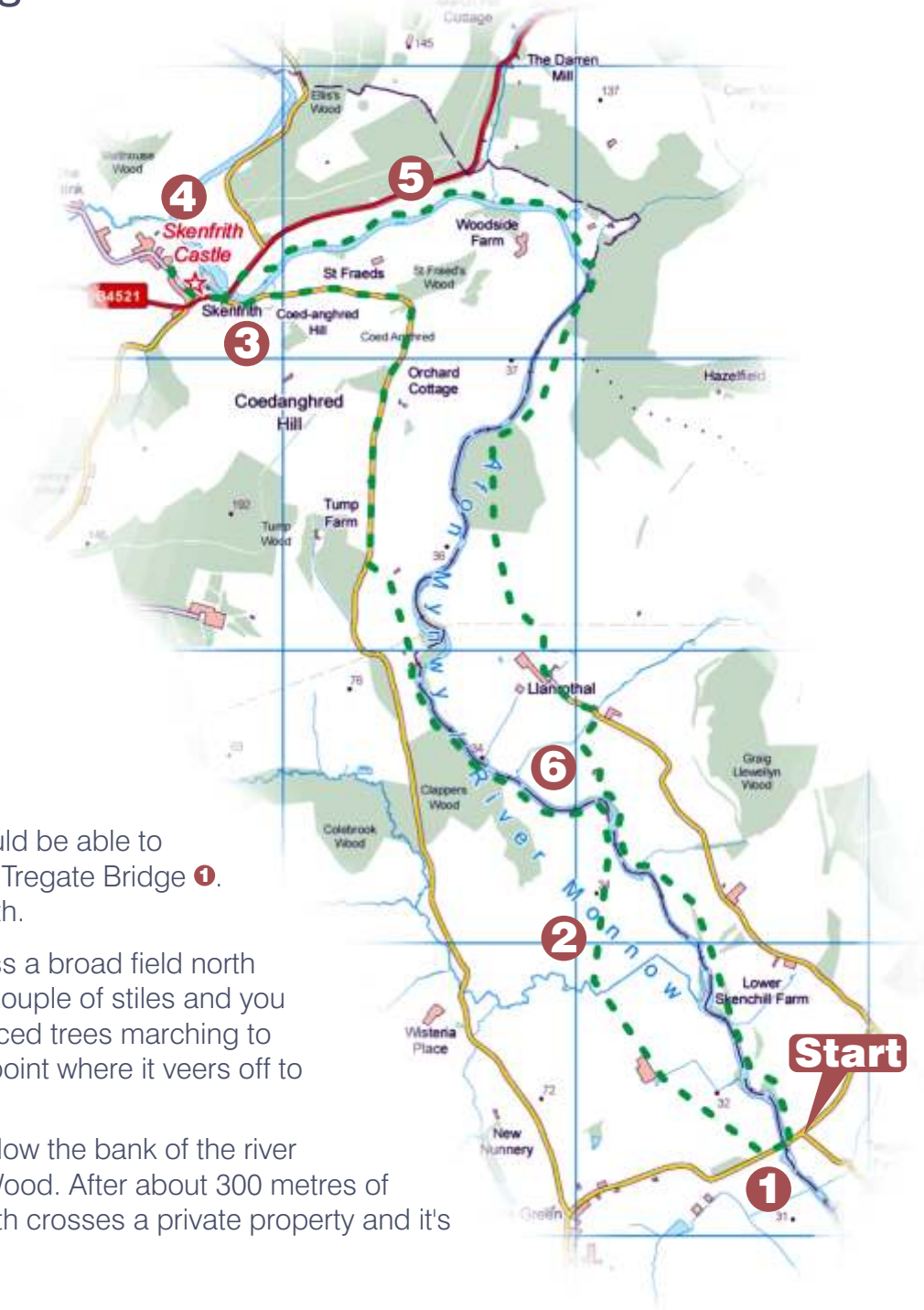
River **MONNOW**

Tregate Bridge to
Skenfrith Castle

Quiet farmland and woods with
a pub and a castle halfway

1 River Monnow - Tregate Bridge to Skenfrith Castle

	Type	Circular
	Location	Monmouthshire/ Herefordshire
	Maps	OS Explorer 14/ OS Explorer 189
	How to get there	B4233 and B4347 from Monmouth
	Start	51°51'7.05"N 2°45'37.83"W
	Length	10km
	Duration	3hrs
	Severity	**
	Paths	****
	Stiles	****



This is a walk that straddles two countries. You should be able to park on a bit of verge on the English side (east) of Tregate Bridge 1. There's a good view of a weir if you are facing south.

On the Welsh side you will find a well marked path across a broad field north towards Blackmoor Farm. Pass the farm house, over a couple of stiles and you are into a poplar plantation 2 with spooky, regularly-spaced trees marching to the horizon. The path is well marked but don't miss the point where it veers off to the right towards the river.

Back at the river, you enter open farm country again. Follow the bank of the river around to the north and west until you reach Clappers Wood. After about 300 metres of uppy-downy paths you emerge into fields again. The path crosses a private property and it's



easy to miss the way. Yes, you do go down the steps and you do pass the chicken coops until you are back in fields again.

Carry on north towards a low converted barn but make sure you start climbing the bank on your left where you join the lane to Skenfrith. It's plain sailing all the way to the village with beautiful views of the gently curving Monnow valley ahead of you and Monmouth in the distance behind you. At Skenfrith **3** there's a decent sized pub or a little café

opposite the castle.

The castle **4** is one of the famous "Three Castles" (with Grosmont and White Castle) of the southern Marches. It dates from at least the 12th Century and is, allegedly, well preserved (although a bit of a roof wouldn't go amiss). If you want somewhere to picnic, make your way down to the river for a peaceful spot on the boulders beneath the castle walls.

Heading back, cross the Skenfrith Bridge and take a stile on the right

after some 50 metres into broad, meandering fields. As the valley curves **5**, you come to a bigish private property with tidy gardens. Stick to the river side, crossing the tiny footbridges. Ignore the loud dog that clearly hasn't been briefed about the public right of way. Towards the end of the lawns you need to veer to your left until you find another footbridge into the woods. You are now back in England. It's a short step though the woods to open fields again.

The path is well marked through

arable fields and pasture until you reach a new housing development in massive barns at Llanrothal Court. Pass down the gravel drive until you reach the lane. 200 metres later, after crossing a small stream, you will see a footpath to your right. Diagonally across the field you should see an old white chapel 6 – that's where you are heading.

The chapel is fairly repulsive on the outside but if you peer through the windows it appears quite a homely place. Now it's just a question of following the river back to Tregate Bridge. Watch out for a couple of points where the path climbs up the bank to your left rather than sticking to the river.

If you take the trouble to look under the bridge you will find a perfectly circular arch which I suppose provides some relief during floods (like the one in 1219 which wrecked the castle!).



Under the bridge at Tregate