All the following walks include sections on tracks, paths and across farmland which can be muddy at times. You need to wear boots or strong shoes with good grip, and take waterproof clothing, a drink and a snack. Walks take from 1 hour to 2 hours 45 mins.

Please remember the Country Code, and in particular keep away from machinery and livestock, keep strictly to the paths, and walk in single file through crops (which include mowing grass). Take particular care in the lambing season (March / April / May), and never go between a young calf and its mother. Dogs should be strictly under control. "Leave nothing but footprints; take nothing but photographs".

Whilst Ordnance Survey maps are not essential, the 1:25000 scale Explorer 240 or Explorer 256 both cover the area and can add to your enjoyment.

All walks start at the town car park where there are toilets. Walks 2 & 5 pass the rail station, so you may start there.

Please note that times given are actual walking times, but do allow you to stop for breath on the uphill bits! Allow extra for significant stops.
Atop the Aqueduct.

About 1 3/4 miles, 100ft height gain. Allow one hour.

Leaving the town car park in Chirk by the side of the Hand Hotel, turn left and walk for 150 yds. to the Church. Turn right carefully crossing the main road and continue along Castle road.

Follow this road for about 5 minutes then, just before a road junction, turn left at an ‘Aqueduct’ sign and walk down a British Waterways track to the Shropshire Union Canal.

Once on the canal towpath, look right to view the canal entering a tunnel. But now turn left to cross the Aqueduct. Whilst walking across the Aqueduct you will see the Viaduct running parallel to it on your right, and the River Ceiriog flowing under both bridges below. Also looking to your right you can see a magnificent view of part of the Ceiriog Valley.

Follow the towpath for about 11 mins. to reach a road bridge at Chirk Bank. Turn sharp left here and follow the road downhill to the Bridge Inn. Cross over the main road and go left over the river bridge. Immediately after the river, by the entrance to the old mill, now "Seventh Heaven", either keep ahead on the road uphill into Chirk, or take the signposted footpath on the right and follow it alongside the old millrace, swinging right up and across a meadow to a stile, and so into Chirk.

Either way, immediately before the church, turn right and follow the Church wall until reaching an iron gate on your left. Pass through this gate and keeping always to the path, walk across the church ground to a little gateway in the wall. Pass through this and the path will lead you back into Chirk car park.
Leaving the car park behind the Hand Hotel in Chirk, cross the main road at the Cenotaph and follow Station Avenue towards the railway station.

Just before you cross the railway bridge, on your left is a Community Rail Information Board. This includes a map showing all the places of interest in the Chirk area, and a carved frame showing the aqueduct and castle. The woodwork and carvings are the work of a local man.

Cross over the railway bridge, and then immediately over the Shropshire Union canal which runs under the road. Look to your right and see the canal entering "The Darkie" tunnel which is about 350yds. long.

Walk on for about 5 mins. and you see facing you the magnificent main gates of Chirk Castle, known locally as the Pretty Gates.

Here you turn left and follow the drive which takes you past Lady Margaret's Caravan Park. Beyond the Park entrance the track continues ahead to a "T" junction. Here turn left again, and follow the path crossing a little wooden bridge, "The Matchstick Bridge", to the road. It used to cross the old tramway!

Turn left at the road, and follow this road until you arrive back in Chirk, opposite the church. Turn left again and you are back at the Hand Hotel with the car park behind.
3. Riverside, Forge and Hilltop

About 5 1/4 miles, height gain 470 ft.
Allow 2h. 45mins.

Leaving the car park in Chirk, using the exit alongside the toilets. At the Post Office, turn right and in 7 mins. you will pass the fire station on your left. Don’t go left, but keep ahead on the lane. On your left, see a play and picnic area, which now covers the area where Brynkinalt Colliery once stood. This colliery ceased to be a working mine many years ago, and was used as an upcast shaft for Ifton Colliery in St. Martins, until Ifton closed in 1968.

At a junction, turn right, and cross the modern bridge over the bypass. Follow down the hill to a little hump back bridge. Many years ago a road from Brynkinalt Hall ran under this bridge to the hall gardens on your left side. You can see the hall on your right.

About another 3 mins. ahead, leave the road and go over a stile, sometimes partly hidden in the hedge, on your right hand side. Cross two fields, one level, and one quite steep and muddy, and you come to the little road bridge which crosses the River Ceiriog at Pont-y-Blew. Don’t cross the bridge but turn left along the lane and after a couple of minutes on your left you can see the remains of the old forge which has lately been renovated and renewed. The hamlet of Pont-y-Blew is also known as “The Forge”.

Follow the lane leaving Pont-y-Blew behind, to pass between a farmhouse and some outbuildings. Turn right at the T-junction and walk for about 15 mins. passing houses on your left until you come to a narrow lane on your left. Turn left to follow this lane for another 30 mins. Known locally as Court Lane, it has good views to the right of the area known as Rivers Meet where the Rivers Dee and Ceiriog join.

Continue uphill and the lane levels out and later passes through a farmyard. The lane bears right but take the left fork and then right at the T-junction. Ignore the left and right turns in the hamlet of Halton and follow the road ahead around a traffic island to pass the entrance to "McDonalds" and under the by-pass bridge.

On your left you will see an active airstrip. Continue ahead for two or three minutes and take the first left and follow this road. To your right there is a glorious view of Chirk and many miles of the surrounding area. Following the road brings you back to where you turned to cross the bypass bridge earlier. Swing right and retrace your steps passing Brynkinalt Home Farm and the fire station, keeping ahead to bring you back to Chirk Post Office and the car park.
About 3 miles, 100ft. height gain.
Allow 1 hr. 20 mins.

Leaving the town car park alongside the Hand Hotel, turn left and follow the main road for about 14 mins., passing the Church on your left and continuing on the main road until you reach the bottom of the hill on the river bridge.

Here you cross over the road and fork right to go along in front of the Bridge Inn and up the hill for 5 mins. to the canal bridge. Cross the bridge, keeping to the road for another 2 mins. to a stile on your right. Follow the waymarked path along the right-hand field boundary, where you can look down onto the canal below. Keep ahead to take steps leading down to a railway level crossing. **TAKE GREAT CARE** here for **HIGH SPEED TRAINS ROAR THROUGH**! Ascend steps on the far side to continue on a signed path, which soon enters woodland and descends to become a track. Reaching a tarmac road, turn right downhill and go right again at a junction. Five mins. downhill is Pont Faen (The Stone Bridge) which once carried the Cardiff to Chester road! Cross the bridge over the River Ceiriog and immediately before the T-junction pass through the kissing gate on the right into a meadow. Keep alongside the river bank to pass beneath the mighty structures of the viaduct and aqueduct and ahead to a ramped track to another kissing gate onto the main road.

Cross the road and follow a waymarked footpath, which starts at the entrance to the old mill. On the left of the drive entrance, pass through a gap between two metal gates. The path runs beside and over the old millrace, before curving right to climb a steep rise to the stile at the top. Cross the stile and turn right along the road into Chirk. Pass the church and so back to the car park.
4 miles, 100ft. of height gain. Allow 1 hr 45 mins.

Leave the town car park beside the toilets, turning left at the Post office and left again at the main road. Cross to the war memorial and continue along Station Avenue for 7 or 8 minutes to the Rail Station. Just before you cross the railway bridge, on your left, is a Community Rail Information Board. This includes a map showing all the places of interest in the Chirk area, and a carved frame showing the aqueduct and castle. The woodwork and carvings are the work of a local man.

Cross the rail and canal bridges and in 2 mins. take a footpath on the right into a wood. (If you have not yet seen the superb main gates to Chirk Castle you may keep ahead on the road instead of the wood, turning right at the gates along the lane to rejoin our route.) In the wood, follow the clear path and at a junction fork left up wooden steps, then almost immediately left again to a kissing gate. Cross the field ahead, keeping below the electric cables, to another kissing gate and right onto a lane. (Almost at once, see the sign of a permissive walk to Chirk Castle which is open in spring and summer. If the path is open, this makes a pleasant alternative walk.) Continue along the lane, roughly north, for about 9 mins. and see a mighty oak tree on the right, its branches arching across the lane. One minute ahead are two more large oaks, then immediately a footpath on the right leading into a field which borders the golf course. Cross the field close to a fence on your right, to a corner stile, then ahead again across a second field to cross a stile onto the lane. Go ahead on the lane, roughly north-east, ignoring all side roads and footpaths, for about 20 minutes to a T-junction with the A5 trunk road. Along the lane you will have fine views and pass the main entrance to the Marina and Golf Course.

Cross the A5, turn right and walk just 30 yards to a footpath on the left, marked "to the towpath" and at the canal, turn sharp left to enter the tunnel. It has a handrail and a good surface, so no torch is necessary! Tall folk need to tilt their heads to the right but its less than 200 yards! Continue on the towpath in all for about 30 to 40 mins. Some 7 mins after joining the canal you will pass the narrow entrance to the marina and in another 6 mins there are excellent views of the golfers. A couple of minutes further you begin to enter the deepening cutting and here, if the towpath is very wet, you do have the option of using one of the unofficial paths on the left, which pass through the wooded bank which forms the left side of the cutting. It should be noted that neither these side paths, nor the towpath itself, are public rights of way, but they are almost always open for public use.

Just before reaching another tunnel take the ramped track forking left up to the road. Turn left onto the road, re-cross the railway bridge, and keep ahead for about 8 mins. back into the town and car park.