

Hosteli Unigeddau'r Elenydd : Elenydd Wilderness Hostels

Short Walks from Ty'n Cornel Hostel No. SW2 - Llethr Llwyd - 4 to 5 miles (6 to 8km)

Directions

NB. Option nos. are on map overleaf. Except where directed below, do not attempt to follow the bridleways on the OS map - they do not exist on ground and their course is unhelpful.

Start

Right (R) from hostel and follow track, looking to see if Doethie fordable especially below Blaendoethie farm (Return Option R2). Go over bridge, uphill and up road to:

Option 1 (Easy)

- 1 Cross cattle grid after Blaendoethie Farm and go immediately L up fence.
- 2 When electricity poles come into view make for second one from fence.
- 3 From pole, head for green hill top (Llethr Llwyd) on far side of low boggy area; pick your way across bog, which is reasonably firm if taken with care.

Option U2 (More of a challenge across moor but generally free of tussock grass)

- 1 Continue on road and go L at road junction. Turn L off road about 250 m from junction where road bends R. Follow bearing of 75° (the direction in which BW signpost points), heading for middle of flat skyline ridge.
- 2 As you reach this, continue through shallow low point to left and a bank, heading for 'notch' on new skyline. Approaching this, head for knoll to left about 100m away.
- 3 From knoll look east (90°) for very thick post in fence about 150m away - make for it, circumventing low ground inbetween. The going eases on the green sward over the fence. Follow the high ground up the broad ridge to the top (Llethr Llwyd).

3 Options for Return from Llethr Llwyd:

Option 1 (Easy) - Simply the reverse of 1 above, ie. head for second pole from fence, taking care in crossing boggy ground, then to fence and L at fence back to road.

Options R2 and R3 - From SW end of the flat top go due E (90°) crossing fence by stout post and following sheep track visible from top up opposite shallow valley side. At top of slope, decide whether to follow Option R2 (easier underfoot but a more difficult fording point) or Option R3 (tussock grass and quite boggy in places but with interest of abandoned settlement and easier fording of Doethie river).

Option R2

- 1 Go L at top of slope along a succession of low raised banks, cutting L each time and then cut over to wall.
- 2 Go along wall to go through metal gate. Go straight ahead (NNW, 335°) before bearing L to pick up track and cross stream. (NB. this is the way the farmer advised, even though it only joins the BW at this point). Follow up to farm and go along R side of buildings to descend hill to Doethie.
- 3 Ford Doethie (retreat to farm if impassable - see over). Go R and R at track to hostel.

Option R3

- 1 Continue due E (90°) from top over the brow of Coli valley to drop through old field boundaries to trees and buildings abandoned in 1920's and 30's.
- 2 Avoid the very bottom of valley which can be very soft. It is probably best to follow the break of slope on R side (E) but alternatives are to stay high on one side or the other and then descend. It is difficult tussock grass whichever way! You need to gain the bank of the Doethie between the Coli and the metal gate above the ford. Go down stream to bridge if impassable (see over). Cross field to exit R of small barn.

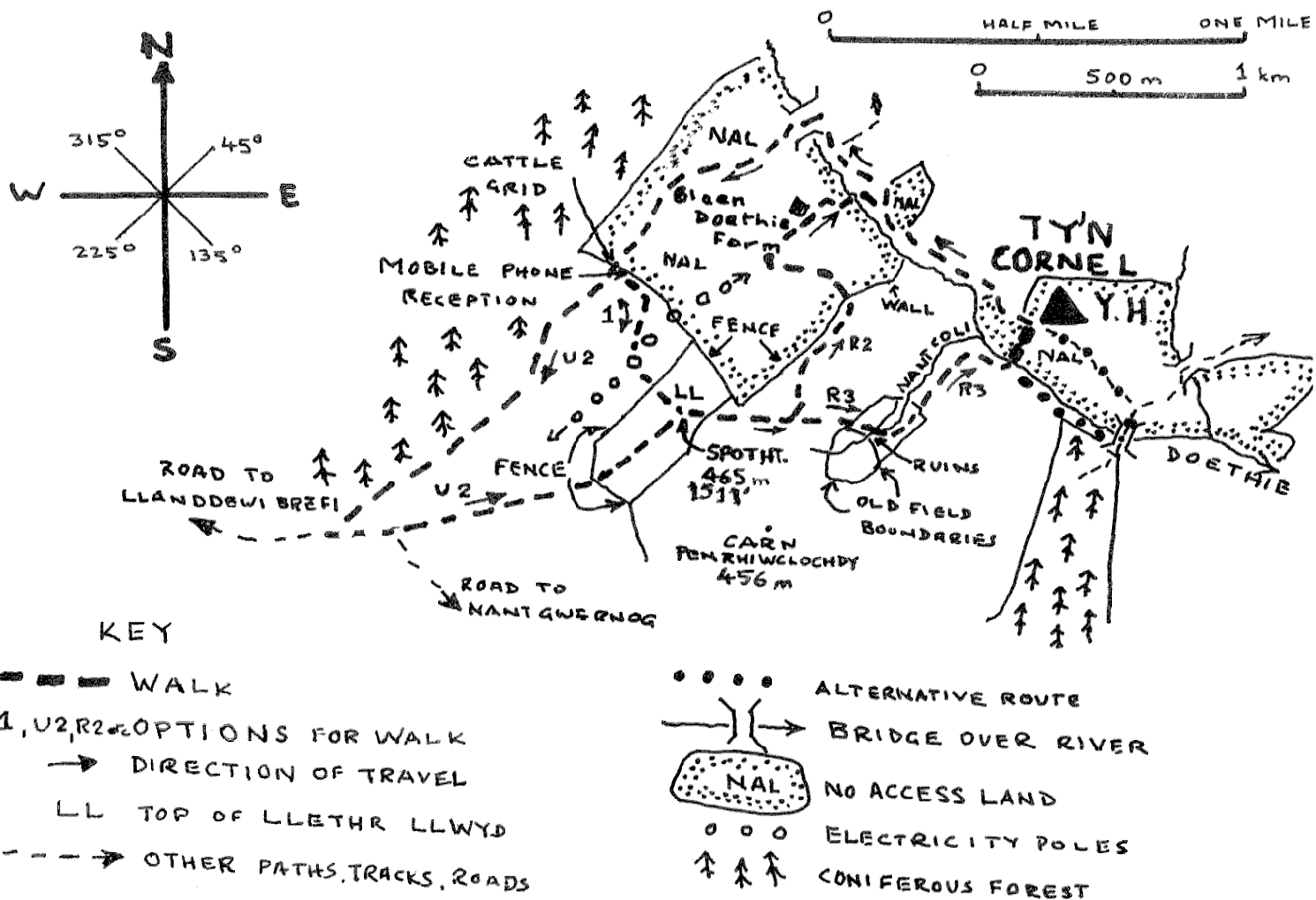
Points of Interest

NB. For more information see Guest Information Files in hostel.

- 1 Views from Llethr Llwyd - To SE and S sweep of high hills from Brecon Beacons to Black Mountain. Closer to hand are fine views of the hostel and its wild setting.
- 2 Old settlement in Coli valley. There are old people in Llanddewi Brefi who remember the widow and her sister who were the last inhabitants of this remote spot.

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Safety

You should familiarise yourself with the safety and navigational information in the Guest Information File "Walking" at the hostel. This walk offers choices including opportunities to navigate by map and compass, walk across untracked moorland and boggy ground and get through tussock grass. Depending on choice of options, walk distance varies between just under 4 and just over 5 miles. By developing your experience of rough moorland walking and your navigational skills here, you should be able to undertake longer and more remote walks.

River Crossings - options R2 and R3 ford the Doethie. R3 is easier than R2. If impassable, from R2 retreat to the farm and ask permission to leave by their drive; from R3 follow river to bridge below forest.

Underfoot - variable. All options are across trackless moor and cross generally not difficult boggy ground. R3 can be an exception and also involves serious tussock grass, which is otherwise largely absent.

Exposure - high open moor, top is at just over 1500 feet. Easy to regain road and drop into valley.

Navigation - All options require attention to map and directions. Option 1 is straightforward; others more challenging - deliberately so to give practice. But escape to road and valley is straightforward provided awareness is maintained. OS map is recommended. Compass as well as OS map required if you want to practice their use and are recommended if visibility is poor.

Summary

Two approaches to the top of Llethr Llwyd, at 1511 feet (465 m) the highest point on the ridge between the Doethie and the Pysgotwr valleys. Its improved pastures stand green and proud of the moorland and there are fine views to be had (see below). There are 3 ways back to the hostel.