

# Hosteli Unigeddau'r Elenydd : Elenydd Wilderness Hostels

## **Walks from Dolgoch Hostel No.7 - Drygarn Fawr - 13miles (18km)**

### Summary

Goes to the highest point in Elenydd, Drygarn Fawr at 2115ft (645m). Descent of Devil's Staircase into Irfon valley on way out and return over Drum Nantygornlan.

### Safety

You need to be an experienced hill walker and are strongly recommended to read the safety and navigational advice in the Guest Information file 'Walking' in the hostel. For this walk this can be summarised as:

**River Crossings** - low bridges over Irfon below Devil's Staircase can be inundated if very wet plus fording of Rhestr moorland stream. This was OK on my recce. during a wet January and should be so at most times. See 9 below for alternative route.

**Underfoot** - About 4 miles across rough moorland of which about 2 miles are not on clear paths.

**Exposure** - High (1600-2000ft, 490-610m) and open for about 4 miles.

**Navigation** - Can be challenging especially in poor visibility. Previous experience vital. OS map and compass are essential.

**Traffic** - About 3miles on very quiet road but be alert and walk on the right.

**Forestry** - Steer clear of harvesting and other operations; follow directions; do not climb on wood stacks.

### Directions

NB. ref.nos. are shown on map overleaf.

- 1 Right (R) at end of hostel access road.
- 2 Follow road, going uphill where road joins from R; then down Devil's Staircase.
- 3 L immediately after 3rd low river crossing onto unsealed road going up into forest.
- 4 Fork R and follow road as it doubles back on itself.
- 5 At forest edge go through gate and immediately L up grassy sward. Continue on trodden path heading for east end of low hill ahead (Drygarn Fach) on bearing of 15°.
- 6 Follow trodden path over E end of Drygarn Fach and turn to follow trodden paths NE-wards (50°) down into valley and up other side to cairn-topped Drygarn Fawr.
- 7 Look for green top of Drum Nantygornlan (1840ft, 560m) about 2miles away on bearing of 290°. Follow concrete marker posts heading 280° from W end of rocks.
- 8 At low top after shallow bottom the markers go NW (315°). At first marker on new course change bearing to 300° and drop down into Rhestr valley.
- 9 Cross Rhestr and go up other side to go R onto clear path parallel to river. Then turn sharp L at junction with another path before stream. This leads to top.  
Possible alternative route - From 'first marker' at 8 follow trodden quad bike trail down into valley. Then same directions as at 9 (or direct to grassy green top of Nantygornlan). The start, at least, looks easier underfoot but I have not walked it.  
If the Rhestr is impassable - go L and follow it downstream to pick up path after confluence with Irfon, through forest back to road. Retrace outward route on road.
- 10 Follow path over top of Nantygornlan past white stone and down to cross bridge over Irfon. Follow track R from bridge and up through gap in forest.
- 10 Go L at forest road: stay on it ignoring tracks coming in from L and R.
- 11 R at public road and L onto hostel access road.

### Points of Interest

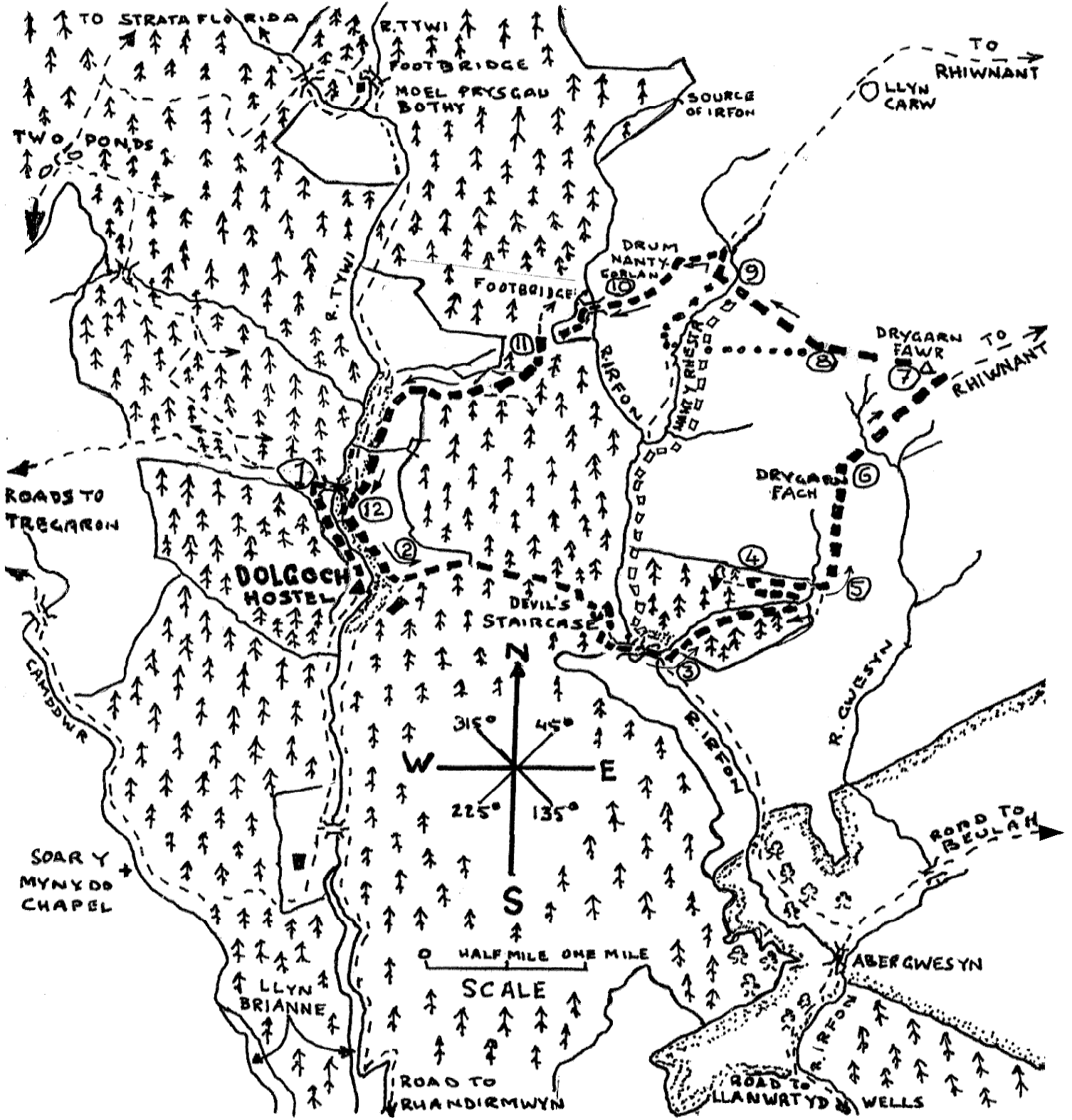
NB. for more information see Guest Information Files at hostel.

- 1 Views of Dolgoch from road (longer note in Walk 3).
- 2 Devil's Staircase - the steep descent into the Irfon valley (longer note in Walk 3).
- 3 Drygarn Fawr - highest point in Elenydd, extensive views. See also 'Elenith' by Tim Porter (p9) in hostel Walking file. Cairns rebuilt for Millenium.
- 4 Recumbent stone on Drum Nantygornlan - by path on descent (more in Walk 3).

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## Walks from Dolgoch Hostel

### No.7 Drygarn Fawr - 13 miles (21k)



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| <p>■ ■ ■ WALK</p> <p>→ DIRECTION OF WALK</p> <p>① DIRECTION REF. POINT (P.T.O)</p> <p>..... ALTERNATIVES USING QUAD TRAIL</p> <p>□ □ □ IF RHESTR IMPASSABLE</p> | <p>---→ OTHER PATH, TRACK OR ROAD</p> <p>⌘ BRIDGE OVER RIVER</p> <p>△ TRIG POINT</p> <p>▣ NOT ACCESS LAND</p> | <p>■ BUILDING</p> <p>(↑↑↑) CONIFEROUS FOREST (INCLUDING FELLSD)</p> <p>(⊕⊕⊕) DECIDUOUS WOODLAND</p> |
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