

Hosteli Unigeddau'r Elenydd : Elenydd Wilderness Hostels

Walks from Dolgoch Hostel

No.4 - Pen y Gurnos - 11miles (18km) or 5miles (8km) from Soar y Mynydd

Summary

Goes down Tywi valley and then on road over to Soar y Mynydd chapel. Climbs on path to watershed between Camddwr and Doethie valleys. Fine walk across open moor to Pen y Gurnos (1496ft, 456m) with spectacular views of Doethie valley, including distant prospect of our other hostel, Ty'n Cornel. Return on forest road to Soar y Mynydd and back same way. Driving to Soar y Mynydd reduces walk by 6 miles.

Safety

You 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 - One, a side stream soon after the start; usually not a problem but be aware of the dangers if in flood and be prudent.

Underfoot - Good apart from tussocky and occasionally boggy path soon after start for about 1 mile to Tywi Bridge and similar conditions for about 1 mile around Pen y Gurnos.

Exposure - High (1400-1500ft, 420-460m) and exposed for about 1 mile.

Navigation - Mostly on obvious paths etc but crosses trackless moor for about 0.5 mile either side of Pen y Gurnos. Fairly straightforward in good visibility but compass needed if poor. OS map recommended.

Traffic - About 3 miles 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 Left (L) from hostel down the valley on well defined bridleway.
- 2 Go Right (R) at road.
- 3 Follow road and at bottom of hill go L, down to river and over bridge. Go L past front of chapel (domestic-looking white building on L) onto unsealed road over grid.
- 4 After about 0.5 mile fork R onto track to Nant Llwyd Farm.
- 5 Follow way-marking through farm (in front of house and R and L at barn).
- 6 At top turn L, leaving path, to follow divide between valleys to trig-point on top of Pen y Gurnos, about 0.5 mile away very slightly E of S.
- 7 From trig-point go due E, following quad bike trail to forest corner (metal tank).
- 8 At corner go sharp R downhill along forest fence.
- 9 After about 300m cross fence to join forest road. Go L at road continuing downhill.
- 10 After about 600m at junction of roads go sharp L to exit forest. Follow road to chapel.

Return from chapel by outward route, reversing directions at 3,2 and 1 above.

Points of Interest

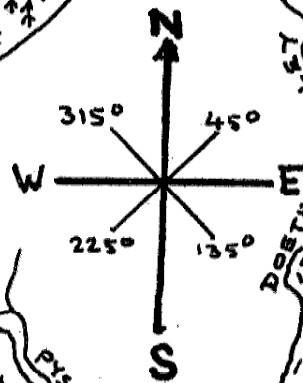
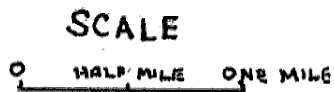
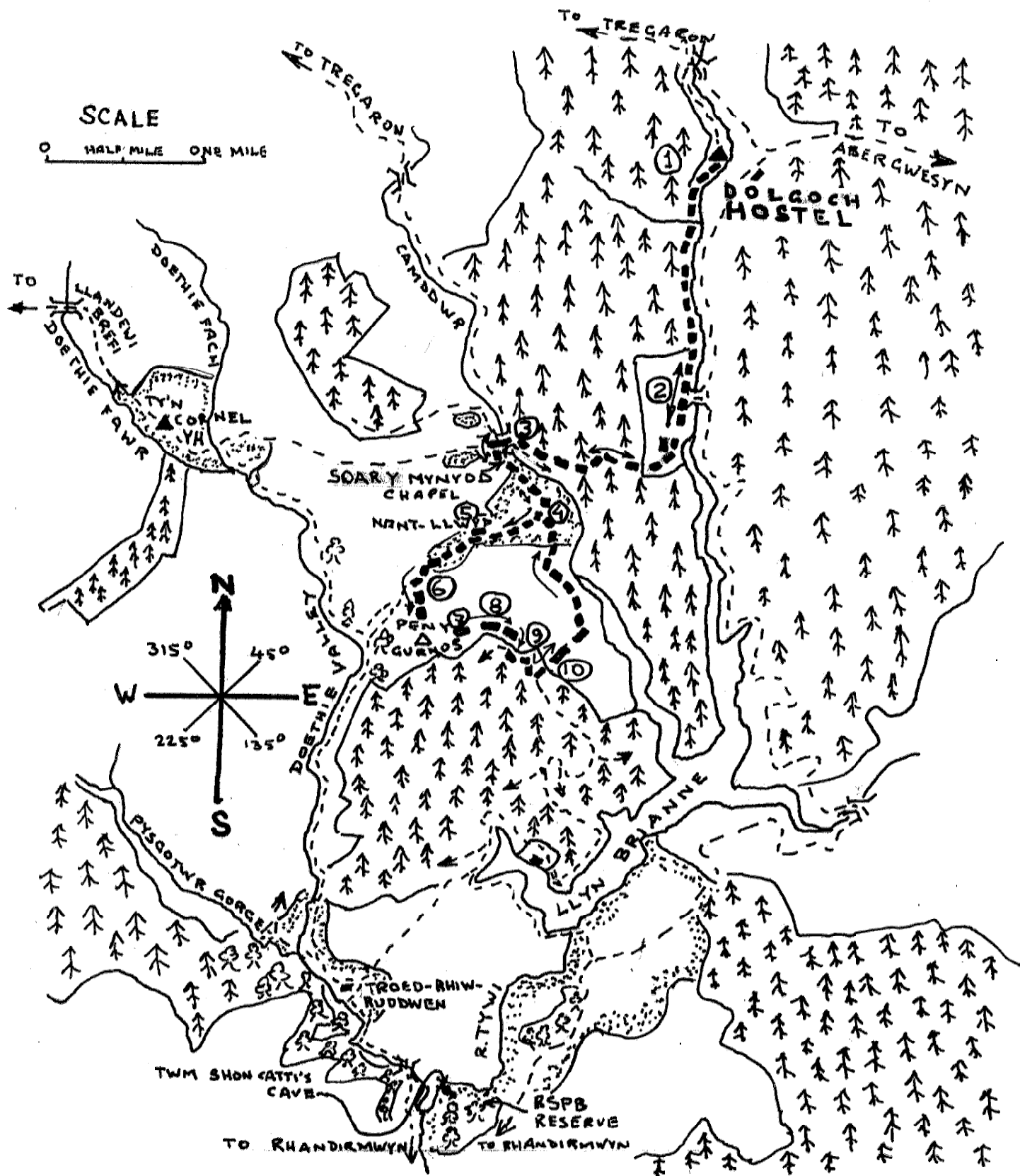
NB. for more information see Guest Information Files at hostel.

- 1 Soar y Mynydd Chapel - this is the most remote chapel in Wales and is still used from spring to autumn. There is interesting information inside. Enjoy its tranquillity.
- 2 Views of Doethie valley. These are very fine both down- and upstream. For the best views downstream it is probably worth going slightly beyond the point (6) where you leave the path. From Pen y Gurnos there is an excellent view back up the valley. The white building in the middle distance to the right of the valley is Ty'n Cornel hostel in all its remoteness.
- 3 Views of Brecon Beacons etc. Beyond Pen y Gurnos there are glimpses of the high ground that runs from The Black Mountains (E) through the Brecon Beacons to The Black Mountain (S).

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- ■ ■ WALK
- DIRECTION OF WALK
- ① DIRECTION REF POINT (P.T.O)
- - - OTHER PATH, TRACK, ROAD
- ↔ BRIDGE OVER RIVER
- △ TRIG POINT
- ■ ■ NOT ACCESS LAND
- BUILDING
- 🌲 CONIFEROUS FOREST (INCLUDING FELLED)
- 🌳 DECIDUOUS WOODLAND