

Hosteli Unigeddau'r Elenydd : Elenydd Wilderness Hostels

Walks from Dolgoch Hostel No.3 - Drum Nantygorlan - 11miles (18km)

Summary

Up Tywi for a short distance and over into Irfon Valley. To Drum Nantygorlan top (1840ft, 560m) with extensive views over wild moorland of the Elenydd. Return down Rhesti and Irfon valleys and by road from Devil's Staircase.

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 significant ford. This was OK on my recce. during a wet January and so should be at most times. An alternative route is described.

Underfoot - On tracks and well trodden paths.

Exposure - High (1600-1800ft, 480-550m) and open for about 1.5 miles.

Navigation - Straightforward with obvious paths but pay attention to the directions and be vigilant in poor visibility. OS map recommended and compass if visibility poor.

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 Right (R) at end of hostel access road. Over bridge and first Left (L).
- 2 Fork R almost at once. Follow unsealed road uphill.
- 3 Fork L as enter forest; after about 0.5 mile go sharp R onto path through gap in forest.
- 4 As drop down through gap, Drum Nantygorlan top is ahead to L (approx NE). Cross Irfon on foot bridge and follow trodden path to top. Look out for stone to L.
- 5 Continue on path for about 600m and turn sharp R where another path comes in acutely from R. If you come to a stream you have gone too far; need to stay on west side. Follow path down valley to confluence with Irfon from R at forest edge (point 6).
- 6 If safe to ford, best place is about 50m from confluence where reeds etc in mid stream. Cross to them and then follow shallower water in mid stream for about 10m downstream to then cross to big white stone and low bank. If not safe then follow Irfon on E bank for about 0.5 mile to footbridge at 4 above and return to hostel reversing directions 3,2 and 1.
- 7 With your back to river, head towards low bank and continue to pick up well trod path. Go R round and under bluffs. Follow path into forest and then to road.
- 8 R at road and up Devil's Staircase.
- 9 Fork R and follow road to turn L into hostel access road.

Points of Interest

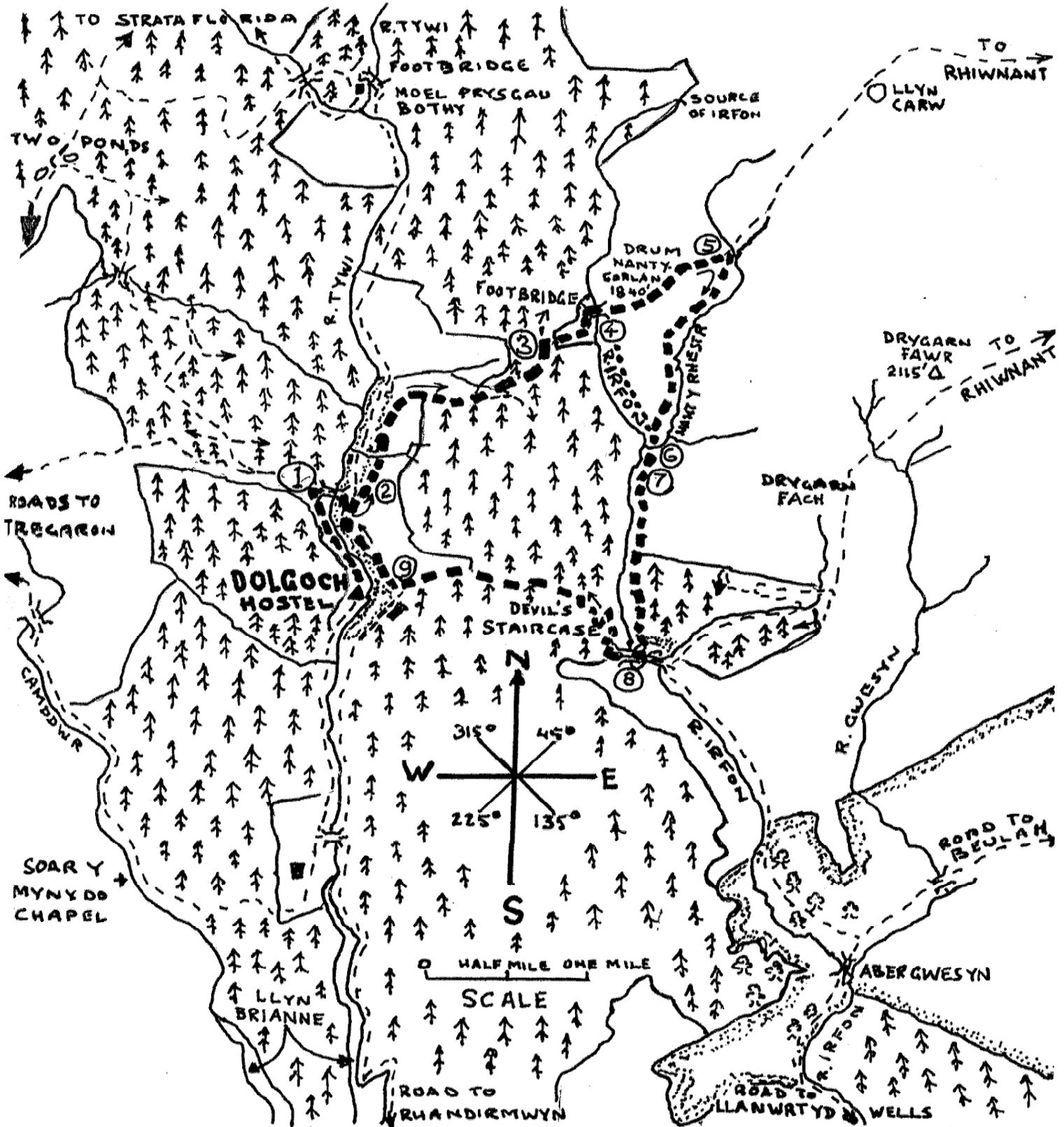
NB. for more info see Guest Information Files at hostel.

- 1 Recumbent stone on Drum Nantygorlan - this is visible to the L of the path going uphill. Although identified as a monument, it is not clear what it was, presumably some sort of standing stone.
- 2 View from top of Nantygorlan - look particularly slightly S of E to the prominent cairns standing on top of Drygarn Fawr, the highest point in the Elenydd at 2115ft (645m).
- 3 Devil's Staircase - a fearsomely steep and twisting climb out of the Irfon valley. Still a challenge for some drivers and most cyclists. It is believed that it was only surfaced in the late 60's or early 70's.
- 4 Views of Dolgoch - there are some delightful views of the hostel nestling in the valley bottom from the road on the return leg. You may care to read what it was like to be a Land Army girl here in 1943 in the war (in the Guest Information Files).

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|--|--------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| | WALK | | OTHER PATH, TRACK OR ROAD | | BUILDING |
| | DIRECTION OF WALK | | BRIDGE OVER RIVER | | CONIFEROUS FOREST (INCLUDING FELLED) |
| | DIRECTION REF. POINT (P.T.O) | | TRIG POINT | | DECIDUOUS WOODLAND |
| | ALTERNATIVE ROUTE IF RHESTR IN FLOOD | | NOT ACCESS LAND | | |