

# Hosteli Unigeddau'r Elenydd : Elenydd Wilderness Hostels

## **Walks from Dolgoch Hostel**

### **No. 8 Irfon Valley and Abergwesyn - 15 miles (24km)**

#### **Summary**

Follows road to Abergwesyn, descending Devil's Staircase into Irfon Valley and down rugged upper valley to Abergwesyn (nb. possible to walk much of this off the road). From Abergwesyn follows a clearly marked bridleway (BW) over into Tywi Valley. Return up valley mostly on road. St David's old church, Abergwesyn and back is 12 miles and makes a good alternative (see below).

#### **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** - the low road bridges over the Irfon can become inundated when river levels are high. Be prudent. There is also a side stream just before you get back to the hostel but this is unlikely to be impassable if the Irfon bridges are clear, especially if you go upstream a bit. But be prudent and if necessary return to the road and use this to get back (point 12 below).

**Underfoot** - Good except for rough path N of Tywi bridge.

**Exposure** - Limited.

**Navigation** - Straightforward with way-marked bridleway but OS map recommended.

**Traffic** - About 10 miles on very quiet roads 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 and on to Abergwesyn (6 miles).
- 3 R at T-junction and after about 400m over bridge and immediately R up track towards church.
- 4 Go through two gates and at 3rd fork L up trodden path.
- 5 Bridleway (BW) goes straight on but easier to follow unsealed road (go R).
- 6 Pass between tall trees (where road and BW rejoin). Go straight on at apex of bend to go through small gate with BW waymark (BWWM) on clear path.
- 7 As path descends, BW bears R to maintain height (BWWM ahead).
- 8 BW doubles sharply back L (BWWM). Follow fence R down hill, through two gates and then go through 2nd gate on R (BWWM) along track.
- 9 Over footbridge (FB) and contour round keeping main river on L.
- 10 Through L-hand of 2 gates (BWWM) and straight on. Follow BWWMs to cross side stream. Continue up main valley for about 1.5 miles over broad col and down to road.
- 11 R at road.
- 12 At about 3 miles L onto road to Tregaron and R immediately after bridge onto BW to hostel.  
Alternatively continue on road up valley, go L at next junction and next L onto hostel access road. But this is 2 miles further.

#### **Points of Interest**

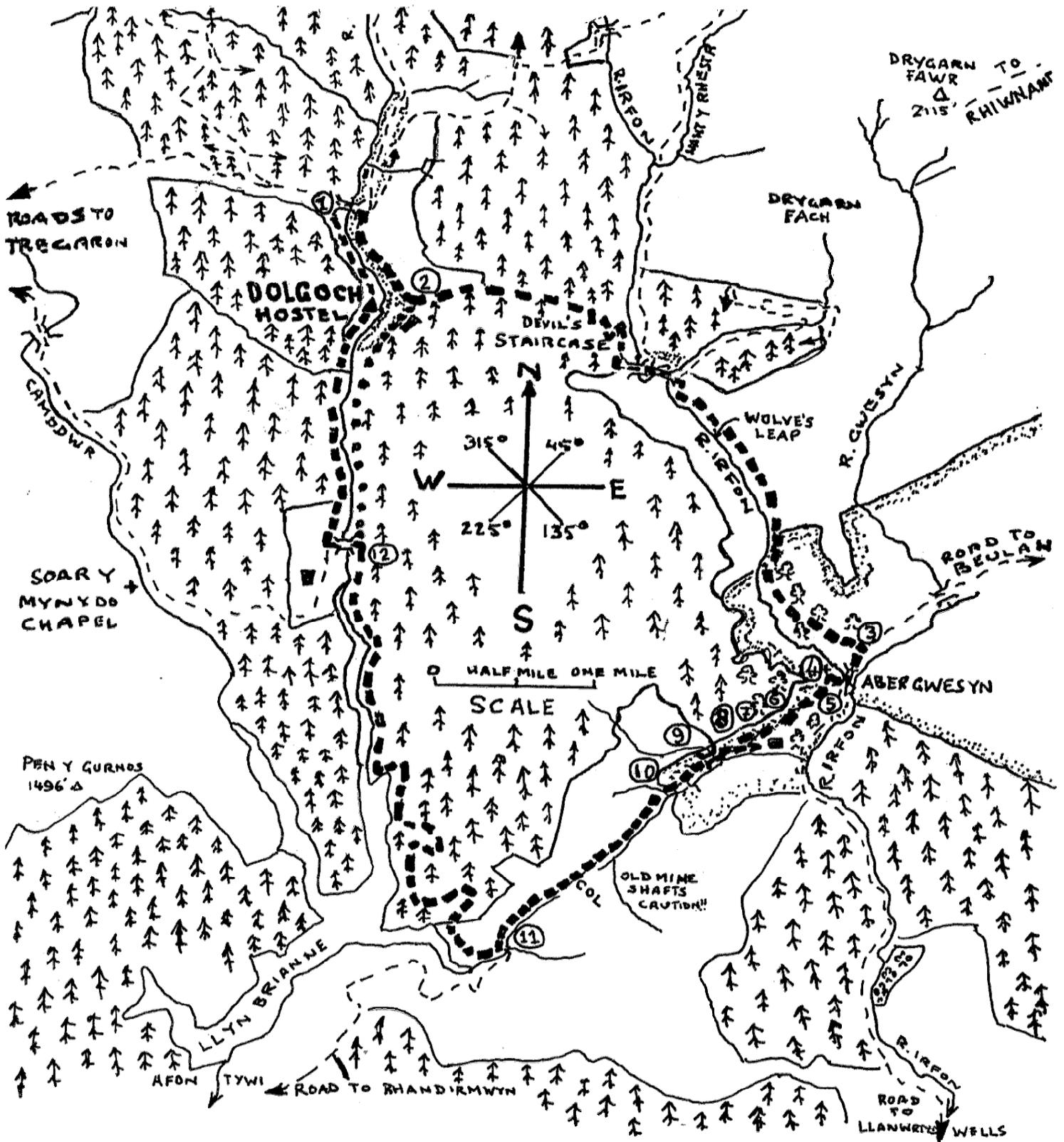
NB. for more information see Guest Information Files at hostel.

- 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 Irfon Valley - very fine to Abergwesyn and you can walk away from the road. Look out for the hard-to-spot and spectacularly narrow ravine of Wolve's Leap on the right after about 0.5 miles.
- 4 St David's Church, Abergwesyn - information boards about this ruined church.
- 5 Old mines in entrance to side valley on S approaching col - beware of old shafts. One (at least) was completely open and unfenced in early 80's - seems to be capped now but be very careful - best avoided.

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