

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 (point12 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 3miles 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

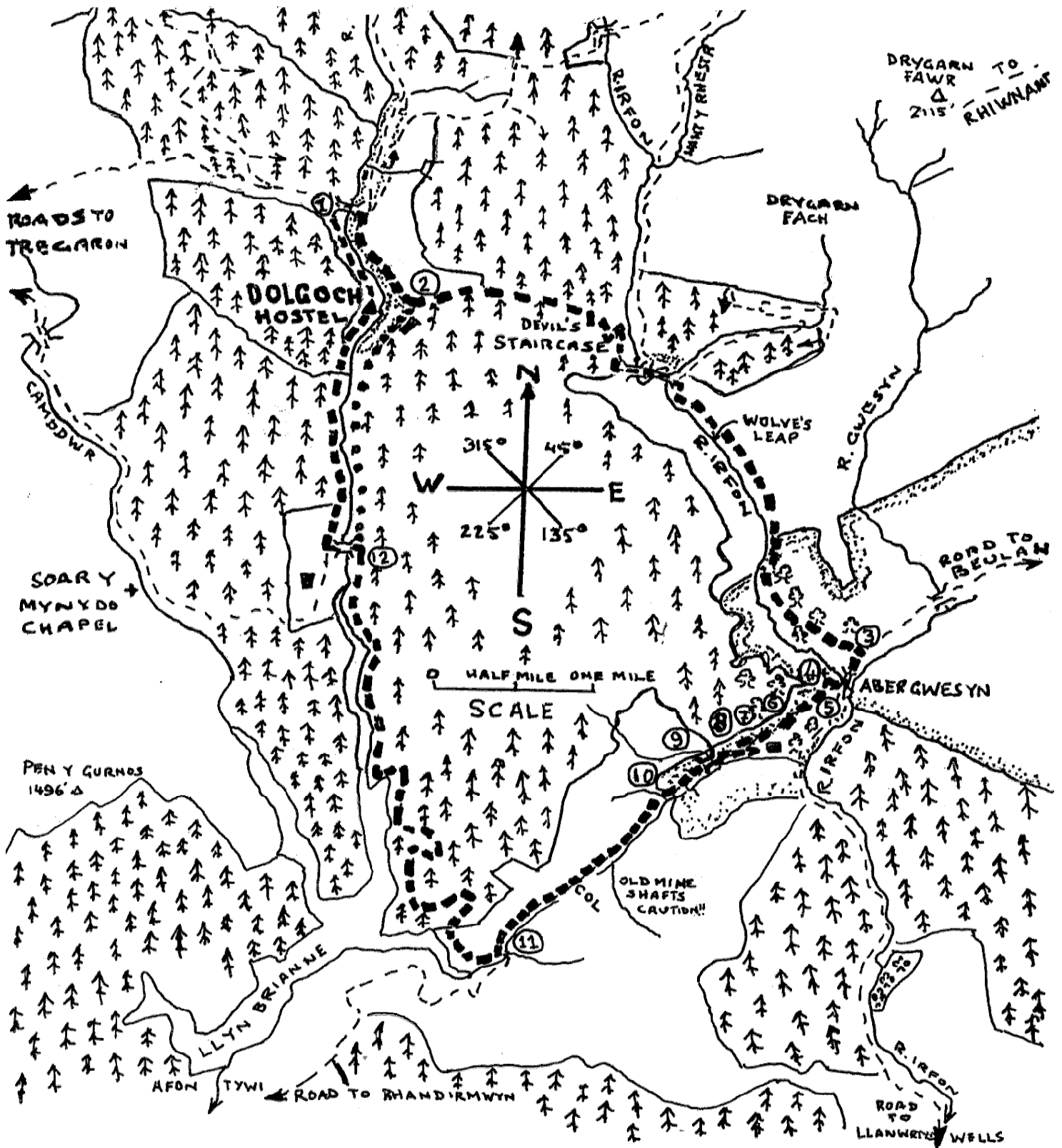
NB. for more information see Guest Information Files at hostel.

- 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 Wolfe'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 | | |