Walks around Llanarmon

Perhaps the best way to explore and appreciate the natural and managed landscape of the Ceiriog Valley is to explore its many footpaths, bridleways and old roadways.

This is a selection of walks which centre on Llanarmon and best present the scenery and countryside of the Upper Ceiriog. There are other public paths, but these may not at present be clear of obstruction. Each walk has an approximate distance and time noted. Almost all involve gradients, and few are surfaced. Good footwear is essential.

Mynydd Bach. Overlooking Llanarmon and the Upper Ceiriog is a natural outcrop of white quartz surrounded by an oval bank and ditch earthwork known as Cerrig Gwynion. Once thought to be a Roman camp it is probably an Iron Age settlement about 3000 years old. Best seen from across the valley near Llygan Rhych. Note: the earthworks are on private land and not open to the public.

Maengwyn. This spur and the others around it extend off the main ridge of the Berwyn Mountains which almost encircle this end of the valley. The Berwyn foothills and peaks are havens for birds of prey, wild animals, rare plants and wildflowers which share the hilltops with sheep. The hills are crossed by narrow, walled tracks which run behind the cottage parallel to the stream, and are more steeply uphill. Take the Llanrhaeadr lane, which runs behind the cottage parallel to the stream, and avoids deep ruts, across the open moorland, and then descend steeply downhill back to the village.

1 Terraced Meadows (Pedestrians only)

Less than 1 hr 2 miles / 3 km

Our flattest walk, on grassy paths and lanes.

Take the Llanrhaeadr lane, south and uphill for almost 500 yards and then the track between hedges on the right, for about 30 yards. Climb the gate on your right leading onto a track rising gently back towards the village. Keep on this track, which soon becomes a level path running just above a fence, for about ½ mile. Here it directly crosses a track and continues for ½ mile, still fairly level, to reach a driveway at Sarchlle farm. Turn right down the drive and right again down the tarmac lane back to the village.

2 The Easy Triangle (Pedestrians, Cyclists and Horse Riders)

About 1 ⅓ hrs 2 ½ miles / 4 km

On tarmac. The last section is on a steep downhill lane.

Cross the Ceiriog river bridge and stay on main B4304 for one mile. At bridge over small stream, take lane on left with white railings, and almost immediately fork left again. Follow the minor lane until its end at Pen y Allt cottage. Turn left, follow lane downhill past Pen y Bryn and steeply down to the village.

3 Round Pen y Glôg (Pedestrians only)

About 2 hrs 3 ½ miles / 5 km

Take Llanrhaeadr lane, south from village for 400 yards. Just beyond wayside seat, take bridleway on left which runs behind the cottage parallel to the stream, and then down to a house. The track divides slightly, whilst a path on left goes more steeply uphill. Take this left fork, but avoid first right swing into bracken by going steeply ahead to the second level sheep track. Go right along this track, avoiding loss of height and shortly see a rocky outcrop - slightly left of ahead. Go to the outcrop and keep ahead to find an awkward stile over a fence. Keep along edge of marsh reed on your right, crossing this field on level ground and heading towards an inconspicuous stile by boundary stone. Now look a little ahead for a gate* - go diretly to it in dry weather, or skirt marshy area if wet.

Once through the gate, go left onto clear track - an ancient roadway. Go 300 yards to crossroads of tracks, go left downhill for another 300 yards and then left onto tarmac road. Follow this road downhill back to the village.

4 Nant y Glôg Drove Roads and Riverside (Pedestrians only)

About 2 ½ hrs 4 ½ miles / 7 ½ km

Follow No. 3 ‘Round Pen y Glôg’ except for tarmac road return. Instead, cross tarmac road and follow ancient highway downhill towards Tregeiriog. Where the track bends right just before Y Felin, go through farm gate on left. There is no clear path, but you are joining the waymarked “Ceiriog Valley Walk”. Aim to keep level and parallel with the river. Go through wooden gate into the wood ahead and follow clear track until reaching Ty’n y Fedw. Pass to the left of the house and over two tiny streams to cross stile in fence. A notice will warn you that ‘Path 1 is eroded’. Take Path 2 instead, immediately through gate on left, then aim for a stile slightly uphill ahead, cross it and keep ahead via a gate to find an isolated, attractive barn. Go left of barn onto clear track which joins tarmac road. Go right, downhill into the village.

Key Tracks = = = = = = = = = = = = = Roads ========= Streams = = = = = = = = = = = = =

All public rights of way.

Route 1
Route 2
Route 3
Route 4
Route 5
Route 6

Any problems with the walks may be reported to the Rights of Way Officer, Wrexham County Borough Council. Telephone 01978 297154.

The Towers

The house, built at the end of the last century, has a castellated tower and forms a prominent landmark on the hillside.

5 Cefn Hir Tynydd - Long Mountain Ridge

(Pedestrians only)

About 3 hrs 5 miles / 8 km

Follow No. 2 ‘The Easy Triangle’ to white iron railings. Take lane on left, but almost immediately take right-hand fork ahead, following the stream. Walk up the valley past Hafod Adams and Gorffwysfa where tarmac gives way to a track. Keep following track which now gradually rises above stream level. About a mile beyond Gorffwysfa the track divides three ways and peters out. Just keep straight ahead and in 100 yards meet a clear track. This old drovers’ road is called Sarn Sws - The Kissing Lane. Go left on this track, crossing a ford at Rhyd Caledwynt - Ford of the Wild Winds. Keep to the track, avoiding deep ruts, across the open moorland, and then descend steeply downhill back to the village.

Fires are a hazard in town and country. Please leave your matches unlit. Take litter safely home. Enjoy the varied wildlife, plants and flowers. Please leave them for others to appreciate.

You are recommended to use this guide with the Ordnance Survey Explorer Series No. 255. This sketch map is diagrammatic and not strictly to scale.

The Valley Code

Hillesides and farmland, like gardens, have owners who like to feel their property is secure. As you enjoy exploring the Ceiriog Valley please respect it as you would your own home.

Avoid parking in gateways. Please close behind you any gates you open. Do stay on the designated footpaths leaving pasture and crops untampled. Always keep your dog on a lead as stock can be easily frightened by unknown people and dogs. Ewes and lambs are particularly vulnerable, and easily disoriented at lambing, so keep clear. You will notice that lambing is much later here than in the kush lands.

The house was a resting place for monks travelling to be a longhouse farm, the birthplace of the bard John Ceiriog Hughes.