

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.

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.

Key

Tracks = = = = } All public rights of way.
 Paths - - - - }
 Roads = = = = }
 Streams ~~~~~

Route 1 [Pink dashed line]
 Route 2 [Orange solid line]
 Route 3 [Yellow solid line]
 Route 4 [Magenta dashed line]
 Route 5 [Green dashed line]
 Route 6 [Blue dashed line]

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

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 2000 years old. Best seen from across the valley near Llywyn Tŷ Coch. **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 drove roads that wind past the remains of late mediaeval farms and sheepfolds, and older cairns and tumuli.

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 1/2 mile. Here it directly crosses a track and continues for 1/3 mile, still fairly level, to reach a driveway at Sarffle 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 1/4 hrs 2 1/2 miles / 4 km

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

Cross the Ceiriog river bridge and stay on main B4500 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 1/2 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, Gwrachen. The hill on your left is Pen y Glôg. Keep to track for 1/2 mile to a point where it crests a small rise and divides. Ahead a track descends 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 directly 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

(extended No. 3 Round Pen y Glôg)

(Pedestrians only)

About 2 1/2 hrs 4 1/2 miles / 6 1/2 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 corner. 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.

Tregeiriog A small hamlet, which once had a cheese factory, mill, shops and an inn.

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 Fynydd - Long Mountain Ridge

(Pedestrians only)

About 3 hrs 5 miles / 8 km

Follow No. 3 'Round Pen y Glôg' to the gate*. Through the gate, go right, heading to the ridge top. The track continues roughly west and level, just to the north of the ridge top, until emerging on a tarmac lane at Llidiart Cae Hir. Go left on tarmac for about 30 yards and find stile on the right side,

opposite the lane junction. An unclear track skirts the top of a steep valley and swings right to become a clear track descending roughly north to Cyrchynan Ucha Farm. Go through farmyard and pass through gate in right-hand corner of the yard. Uphill on a track, the route climbs through meadows becoming less distinct - but keep below an old hedge of pollarded trees. Keep roughly level ahead to a corner with two gates. Climb the right hand of these (on the hinge side) and follow the fence downhill for 250 yards, then cross field diagonally, passing an isolated field maple tree to gate in corner. A short track reaches down to the road, and follow the road left 500 yards into the village.

6 Rhyd Caledwynt - Ford of the Wild Winds

(Pedestrians, Cyclists and Horse Riders)

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.

The Valley Code

Hillsides 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 untrampled. 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 lush lowlands.

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

Thank you for your consideration. Do come again.

