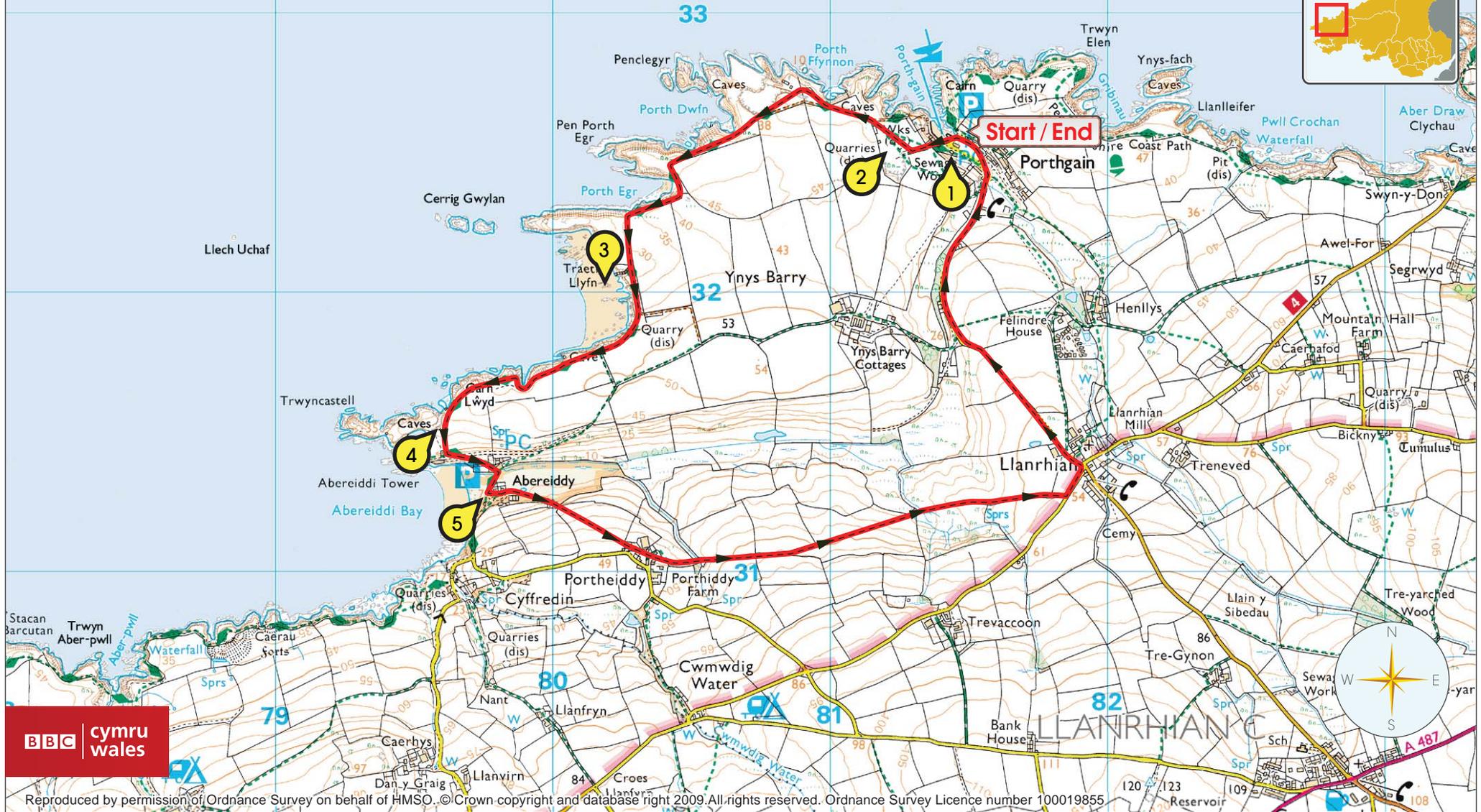


Weatherman Walking

Blue Lagoon - Porthgain

Approximate distance: 4 miles

For this walk we've included OS grid references should you wish to use them.



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Weatherman Walking

Blue Lagoon - Porthgain

Start: Caerphilly Castle
Starting ref: SM 813 323
Distance: Approx. 4 miles
Grade: Leisurely
Walk time : 2 hours

This pretty Pembrokeshire walk follows part of the Wales Coastal Path that begins and ends in the picturesque coastal village of Porthgain. It's full of stunning sea views, local history, industry and a strong fishing heritage that makes it a great walk for those eager to explore the history of the area, in spectacular surroundings.

Directions

After parking in the centre of Porthgain, walk down to the harbour and keep to the pathway alongside the quay. Carry on past the remains of the derelict granite hoppers until you come to steps at the side of the harbourmaster's cottage



Harbour at Porthgain

Porthgain (SM 814 325)

The village of Porthgain and in particular its harbour was the centre of local industry towards the end of the 19th century when slate was loaded and exported from here.

When the demand for slate declined, Porthgain turned to brickmaking and then to crushed roadstone (dolerite). It's these hoppers that are still visible along the quay today, and were in use until work ended in 1931.

In 1987 Porthgain was designated a conservation area and is a popular stop along the Pembrokeshire Coast Path.

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Climb the steep set of steps to the top of the headland and enjoy the views back over Porthgain, before following the coastal path along the clifftops towards Abereiddi.



Porthgain harbour from the headland

2 Brickworks (SM 812 325)

During the first part of the walk, there are many signs of the industrial heritage in the area. The remains of the railway that once linked the Pen Clegyr and St Bride's quarries can still be seen as a raised level strip next to the path.

Taking a slight detour inland towards some abandoned brick buildings reveals the quarry from which a lot of the slate was originally sourced. A tunnel ran from the quarry, through the hillside and on to the quay at Porthgain.



View towards Fishguard - ferry on the horizon!



Walking towards Porthgain Quarry

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Blue Lagoon - Porthgain

Back on the Coastal Path, keep walking towards Aberiddi passing the impressive quarry on your right. As you approach Aberiddi you can see Traeth Llyfn, a lovely sandy beach only accessible by some steep metal steps.



Cerrig Gwylan

3 Traeth Llyfn (SM 802 320)

Although a very tempting and attractive beach, Traeth Llyfn is renowned for its strong currents and tricky tides so swimming is not recommended.



Traeth Llyfn

Keep following the coastal path until you come out on a round-topped hill above Aberiddi and the Blue Lagoon. There are no fences here so approach with caution.

Weatherman Walking

Blue Lagoon - Porthgain

4 The Blue Lagoon (SM 796 315)

The Blue Lagoon is the name given to a flooded slate quarry near to the village of Abereiddi. When the quarrying of slate from here ceased over a century ago, the last strip of land holding the sea was blasted and the water cascaded in creating this rather unique man-made water feature.

Since then it's proved very popular with thrill-seekers who come here to go coasteering and tomb-stoning (jumping from a high position above the water!). Cliff-diving events take place here.



The Blue Lagoon

As the path descends it's possible to take a detour which gives you a closer look at the Blue Lagoon and an appreciation of the scale of the slate workings that once took place here.

Here our walk turns inland and, as you head towards the toilet block, you pass the ruins of what was once the row of houses (The Street) belonging to the quarry workers.



Path to Blue Lagoon

Weatherman Walking

Blue Lagoon - Porthgain

5 Abereiddi (SM 797 312)

Abereiddi was once home to the families of slate workers employed at the nearby quarry. The row of houses known as Y Stryd (The Street) eventually fell victim to a violent storm that caused severe flooding in this small bay. Many of the other houses in the village were later abandoned to the elements as the slate industry ground to a halt.



Abereiddi beach



Y Stryd - The Street

Next to the public toilets, go through the gate and follow the path back through the fields passing through Ynys Barry Cottages until you come out on the road to Porthgain. Turn left here and walk back along the road into Porthgain and the start of your walk.



Gate leading to the Tramway path