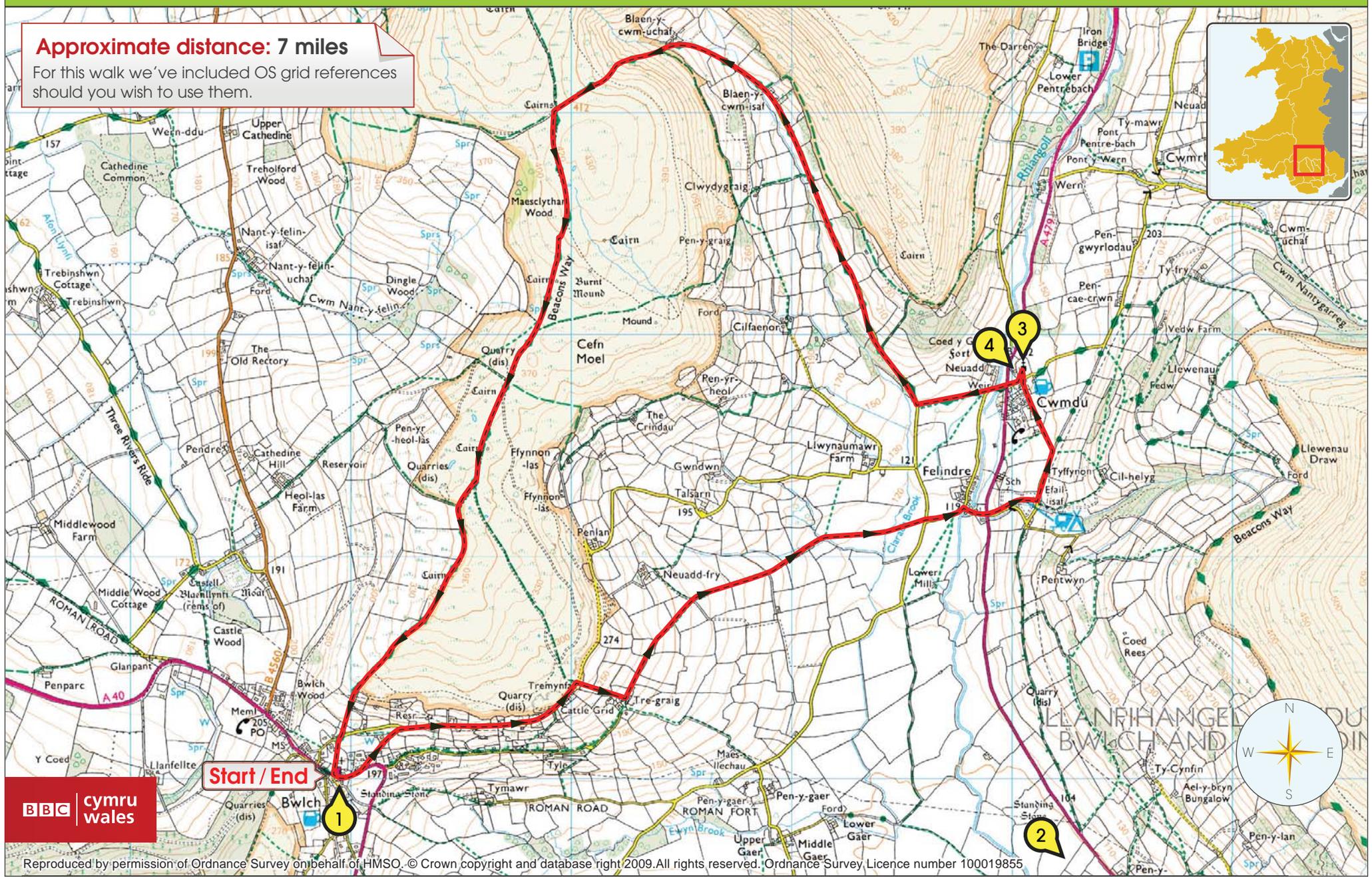


Weatherman Walking

Bwlch

Approximate distance: 7 miles
 For this walk we've included OS grid references should you wish to use them.



Start / End

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The Weatherman Walking maps are intended as a guide to help you walk the route. We recommend using an OS map of the area in conjunction with this guide. Routes and conditions may have changed since this guide was written. The BBC takes no responsibility for any accident or injury that may occur while following the route. Always wear appropriate clothing and footwear and check weather conditions before heading out.

Weatherman Walking

Bwlch

Start: The Star Bunkhouse, Bwlch, Brecon Beacons

Starting ref: SO 149 220

Distance: Approx. 7 miles

Grade: Moderate

Walk time : 3-4 hours

This circular walk explores the less trodden paths of the Black Mountains, and offers a peaceful alternative to the busier routes in the Brecon Beacons. Taking you through some lush countryside and with striking views over Pen y Fan, Llangorse lake and the central Beacons, it's well worth the hike!

The last parts of the walk are well off the beaten track so make sure you have good footwear, waterproof clothing and plenty of food and drink.

Directions

Starting at the village of Bwlch, there is limited parking available by the church and village shop. Our walk starts further along next to the Star Bunkhouse on the A40.

Begin to leave the village heading downhill and look out for a single lane leading off uphill on your left signposted Heol Tremynfa.

Continue to walk up the hill for just over half a mile until the road flattens out. Cross over a cattle grid then look for a brideway signpost and turn right. Head downhill through a metal gate.



Star Bunkhouse



Bridleway signpost and gate

Weatherman Walking

Bwlch

1 Bwlch (SO149220)

The name 'Bwlch' in Welsh translates as 'gap or pass'. The village is situated in a gap between two hills in the Brecon Beacons.

This pass today forms part of the busy A40. It once formed part of a system of Turnpike roads providing an important network link between London and Fishguard and then on to Ireland.

Once through the gate the path can get very muddy, so take care when making your way down until you reach some farm buildings.

Bear left alongside the barn and cross over the stile next to a gate. Follow the track through another gate being aware of livestock and the countryside code.

Keeping to the lower part of the field, take some time to enjoy the splendid views down across the Rhiangoll Valley towards Crickhowell in the distance and Tretower Castle and court sitting in the middle of the valley floor.



Turn left at farm buildings

2 Tretower Castle and Court (SO 184 212)

Tretower Castle and Court is a medieval fortified manor house dating from the early 14th century when the castle next door was still in use. In danger of succumbing to the ravages of time, Tretower Court was bought by the Brecknock Society in 1929 and saved and restored. It is now in the care of CADW and is open to the public.

Pass through a black kissing gate and down a set of steps and head towards a stile straight ahead.

Walk diagonally across the field towards a small wooden gate, and once through turn right and then through the first gate on the left.



Black Kissing gate

Weatherman Walking

Bwlch

Walk down the field towards the village of Cwmdy following a public footpath until you arrive at a low stone wall at the end of a row of trees. Cross over the stone stile, and keep right through the field, crossing a shallow stream and another stile. Keeping a small pond on your left, cross over the next stile and cross the stream again.



Stone stile

Walk down the middle of the next field until you come to a wooden gate. Cross over the small bridge then walk towards the collection of cottages straight ahead. At the end of this field, cross over the stile and on to a road. Follow this road and arrive at the small hamlet of Felindre.



Wooden gate to Felindre

On arrival at the houses turn right over a narrow stone bridge and walk up the lane towards the main road (A479). Just over the bridge is the old school which bears a plaque in recognition of the work of Thomas Price, a leading campaigner for the teaching and use of the Welsh Language.



Bridge in Felindre



Plaque to Thomas Price

Weatherman Walking

Bwlch

3 Thomas Price's Grave (SO180 238)

The Reverend Thomas Price was a historian and a major Welsh literary figure of the early 19th century. He was a fervent campaigner for the Welsh language, and encouraged the teaching of Welsh in schools which was much against the policy of the day.

Today his grave is found at the back of St Michael and All Angels Church in Cwmdy, where he was the parish priest. It was designed by him and bears one of his poems written on the top under his bardic name 'Carnhuanawc'.



Thomas Price's Grave

Carefully cross the busy A479 and using the stile at the corner of the field opposite, proceed through the Cwmdy Caravan Park which is a public right of way.

After passing through the gates at the top end of the caravan park, turn left and follow the lane round to arrive at St Michael and All Angels Church.

Take some time to explore the churchyard where you will find the grave of Thomas Price and an ancient and mysterious stone.



St Michael's Church

4 St Michael and All Angels Church (SO 180 238)

There has been a church on this site since 1060 although the tower dates from the 15th century. It is a very well-kept church and noted for being the site of the grave of Rev Thomas Price, a leading Welsh literary figure. The unusual Celtic stone has an ancient inscription CATACUS HIC IACIT FILIUS TEGERNACUS - 'here lies Cattoc son of Teyrnoc'.

Weatherman Walking

Bwlch

From the church gate, turn right and walk down to the main road. Carefully cross over and walk down the lane directly opposite.

Cross over a bridge and look out for a prominent wooden signpost indicating the Beacons Way. Cross over the stile and walk up the field. (The rest of the walk follows the Beacons Way.)

At the top of the field, cross over the stile and keep to the hedge line until you reach a gate. Through the gate, turn right on to a lane and follow the lane for a mile or so until it becomes more of a track. Eventually you reach a gate which is the entrance to a farm called Blaen y Cwm Uchaf. Go through the gate and walk up the concrete drive towards the farm until you pick up signs and a track that will take you up the hillside.

This steep climb eventually levels out and you come to a 'crossroads' of paths marked by a pile of loose stones. There are fantastic views over Pen Y Fan and the central Beacons in the distance. Turn left here, and follow this well-trodden path to the top of Cefn Moel where a cairn and stone post mark the summit.

Take time to get your breath back and enjoy the panoramic views – Llangorse Lake, Pen y Fan, the Black Mountains, the Usk Valley and Crickhowell and back down over Cwmdru.



Beacons Way signpost



Turn left at the crossroads



Derek enjoying the view from Cefn Moel

Weatherman Walking

Bwlch

From here it's all downhill now, following an eroded path through a few more gates on quite an uneven path. Keep following the footpath signs and turn left on to a narrow path which leads you down the side of the old chapel. You will arrive at the back of the Star Bunkhouse where you began your walk.



Continue on path downhill towards Bwlch



Path leading to Chapel