Weatherman Walking

Approximate distance: 5.5 miles
For this walk we’ve included OS grid references should you wish to use them.

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.
This ancient Roman Road, crossing the Carneddau Mountains is full of history, stunning scenery, and surprises. From wild horses to hidden Roman board games it’s a track that’s accessible for bikers, hikers and off-road mobility scooters. Perfect for wheelchair users who want a bit more of a challenge - just like our disabled rambler guide Terry Taylor.

NB, It’s an out and back again walk, but there are alternative options, and you can always continue walking to Rowen. But as bus routes back are limited and time consuming, this would need the two car option or arranging to be collected.

Directions
To get to the mountain car park, drive through the village of Abergwyngregyn following signs for Aber Falls; the road will soon turn into a single lane as you leave the village.

Continue uphill past the turning for Aber Falls, and continue left over a small bridge, passing a car park on your right. Continue uphill with stone walls on either side, until you reach a small car park and the end of the lane.

There is a steep footpath joining the main track tucked away in the left hand corner of the car park. Or alternatively, go through the main gate with an established track leading from it.

Follow this path around and up to the left until you are above the car park and carry on uphill.
This is now the track you’ll be following all the way to Bwch y Ddeufaen and back.
There are a few smaller tracks and paths leading from it, but our walk stays on this one for just over two miles up and then back.

1 Roman Road from Segontium to Chester

This ancient track connected the Roman Fort at Caernarfon (Segontium) with the Roman Legionary Base (Deva) at Chester.

The fort remains can be found on the outskirts of Caernarfon, and was founded around AD 77. It was the main Roman Fort in the north of Roman Wales and designed to hold about 1,000 auxiliary infantry. These were needed to control the local rebellious tribes, and to keep hold of the produce from Anglesey’s breadbasket.

Segontium survived until the end of the Roman occupation of Britain, and was the most important military base and administrative centre in this part of Britain, so this Roman Road to Chester would have been alive with marching soldiers and a busy trade route across the mountains.

Sticking to the track, take time to look at the landscape around you, and notice the many remains of the medieval farmers who lived and worked up here. There are also many prehistoric remains up on the Carneddau such as standing stones and Cairns, you’ll see these marked on your OS map.

After a while you’ll arrive at a crossroads, signposted Llanfairfechan, Aber, Rowen and Drum, with great views out over the Irish Sea. It’s also a lovely spot to watch the wild Carneddau Mountain Ponies that roam freely up here.
Carneddau Mountain Ponies (SH 693 722)

This hardy breed has survived up here since the age of the Celts. They are one of the wildest animals in Britain and are completely untouched. They are also the only remaining wild mountain ponies left in Britain.

They play a vital role in the local ecology of the mountain and are a joy to see still grazing the hillside.

These truly wild Carneddau mountain ponies have survived up here for hundreds of years and are a great addition to the walk.

There is also another hidden gem here – the remains of a Roman game etched into a nearby rock. But it takes some finding!

Facing the sea, stand next to the signpost and begin to turn a little to your right. Look for a granite marker bisecting the angle between the road to Rowen and the track coming up from Llanfairfechan, an angle of about 36 degrees. Head for the marker and once there, walk another 30 metres in the same direction, and look for a flat bit of rock with a grid scratched into it.
Nine Men’s Morris (SH 6937 7229)

Nine Men’s Morris is a strategy board game for two players that emerged from the Roman Empire. It’s unsure when this board was created here, possibly by the Roman soldiers but most probably a game to pass the time between drovers who would meet at these cross roads.

Each player starts the game with nine ‘men’ and needs to line up three men along the grid to create a mill. Once a mill is made, an opponent’s man is taken. This continues until a player is down to two men and therefore unable to make any more mills.

It’s tricky to find, but this ancient stone carved board game can still be played today! Just make sure you learn the rules first.

Re-join the main track, gradually climbing higher and higher until you eventually arrive at a gate with the track leading off downhill.

You have now reached Bwlch Y Ddeufaen, so it’s time to turn around and head back the way you came enjoying sea views over Anglesey.

Derek, Terry and Malcom are completely unaware they are being followed by a low-flying object – as our new Weatherman drone films their every move.