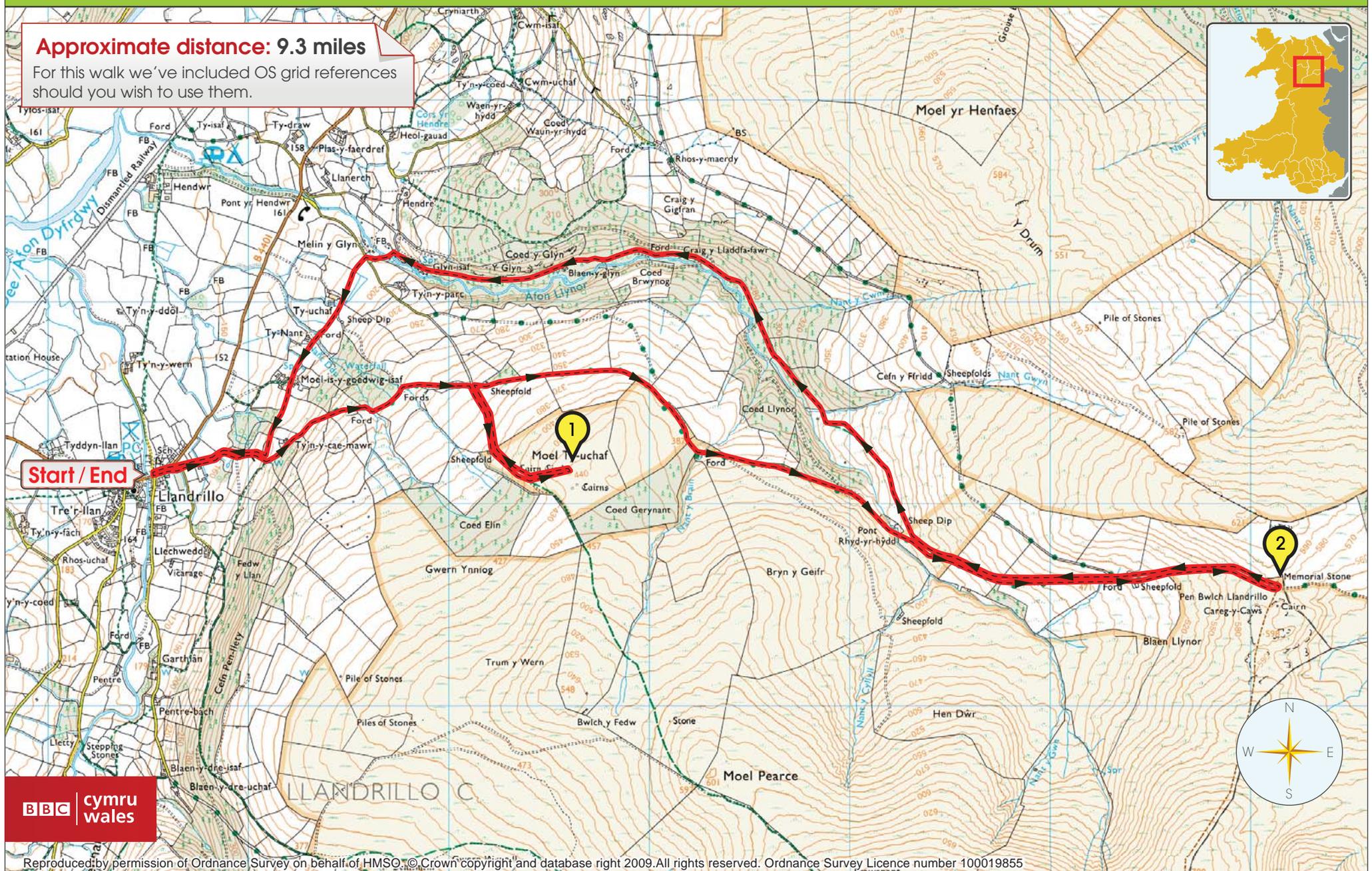


Weatherman Walking

Llandrillo

Approximate distance: 9.3 miles
 For this walk we've included OS grid references should you wish to use them.



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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

Llandrillo

Start: Llandrillo

Starting ref: SJ 035 371

Distance: 9.3m

Grade: Moderate

Walk time : Allow 5hrs (4.5hrs walk time)

This wild walk up into the Berwyn Range, follows in the footsteps of the old drovers making their way to market. It's also a firm favourite for off-road cyclists.

With a hard surface the whole way and set in dramatic landscape, it's a great way to while away a day.

But be warned it's quite a hike up and back. So be prepared as the Berwyn Range is remote and subject to changing weather, so make sure you dress and plan accordingly.

Directions

Park in the village car park next to the river, then turn left and cross the road, passing the war memorial on your right. Take the second lane on the right that runs along the back of the 'old school', and keep left until you begin a fairly steep climb and reach a gate sign posted Taith Tegid/Tegids way.

Follow this atmospheric old drover's road, passing through numerous gates along the way. Enjoy the views over the lush Dee valley until the track levels out and you reach a gate with three tracks leading off in different directions.

To visit the impressive Moel Ty Uchaf Stone circle take the grassy farm track heading uphill on your right, hugging the stone wall. (This will take about one hour to get there and back.)

If you don't fancy the climb, then continue straight ahead, along the Taith Tegid.



The gateway to the Berwyn Range above Llandrillo. This track is also part of the Taith Tegid or Tegids Way. An 18 mile trek from Bala Lake to Cynwyd.



Derek practising his lines on part on the old drover's road above Llandrillo.

Weatherman Walking

Llandrillo

Follow the farm track uphill and notice the old medieval slate propped up against the more modern stone walls and fencing, showing the rich farming history in this area through the ages.

Keep going uphill following the track until you reach a gate. Once through the gate keep walking for about 500m and then head left up the hill. NB there are no markers or clear signs indicating where to leave the path, you have to just follow your nose to the top!

At times it seems there is a false summit so keep heading up, and look out for a truly impressive stone circle with amazing 360 views.

On arrival, catch your breath, before retracing your steps back to the bottom track and re-joining the Taiith Tegid.



Moel Ty Uchaf Stone Circle (SJ 056 371)

The Berwyn Range has been home to human activity for thousands of years, and are scattered with prehistoric remains. There are many cairns, stone circles and standing stones all over the landscape. It's even believed some of the first farmers in Wales settled here when the valleys below were too heavily wooded and roamed by predators. Back then the climate was much milder, and the Berwyn Range was a great place to live and farm in relative safety and comfort.

The Moel Ty Uchaf stone circle is one of the most impressive of these remains, measuring 12 metres across with 41 surviving stones, with most still touching. As with most stone circles its purpose and function is unknown.

However it's clear that location played an important part here. There are extensive 360 views to Cadair Bronwen in the south east; The Aran Ridge in the south west, Arenig in the west; and the Carneddau in the north west - and if you're lucky you'll see Snowdon's peak there too!



The Moel Ty Uchaf Stone Circle is well worth the hike up, especially on a clear day when you have views in all directions, and unlike Snowdonia - you have the place to yourself!

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You'll now be on this track for a few miles with the landscape beginning to open out along the way. The track stays solid underfoot, but you do cross a few 'fords' here and there.

As you approach a small stone bridge, look left and you should see some shallow stone walls funnelling down to the river. This is an old sheep bath used by the local farmers to wash the oil out of the sheep's wool before shearing by hand.

Continue downhill to the old stone bridge, called Pont Rhyd-yr-Hydd. Just off to the right is a memorial bench overlooking a small cascade, and a good place to examine the old stone bridge and take a breather before your next long climb.

Cross the bridge and go through the gate, continuing along the track uphill for quite a way until you reach a junction with a road heading off to your left.

Continue straight on uphill leaving the Taith Tegid, and once over the brow of the hill as it levels out, look left for a plaque in the stone rock with a metal box beneath it – this is the Wayfarer Memorial.



Great views over the lush Dee Valley on the way up.



Fancy a dip? This stone sheep run was used to send sheep down into the river, to have the oils washed out of their wool before being hand sheared.

Weatherman Walking

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Wayfarer Memorial (SJ 091 365)

This memorial was placed here to commemorate one of the pioneers of 'off-road' cycling; Walter MacGregor Robinson. WM Robinson was an avid off-road cyclist and wrote cycling articles under the pen-name 'Wayfarer'

He had a devoted band of followers, and one of his most famous accounts of his off road adventures was his crossing of this pass (Nant Rhyd Wylm) during a March snowstorm in 1916, titled 'Over the Top'.

This pass is still associated with him, and often known as 'Wayfarer'. In front of the memorial stone there is also a metal box where people write comments about their trip and leave personal items.



Derek and Carol reach their goal at the top of Nant Rhyd Wylim Pass.

After soaking in the views towards the Ceiriog Valley and Berwyn Ridge retrace your steps back towards the stone bridge. About 100m or so before the gate leading onto the bridge, look for a faint footpath that heads up onto the hillside on your right. This path can easily be mistaken for a sheep path and isn't signposted. The path then opens into a larger path above the sheep washing pens. Keeping to the main bottom path, head for the small wood in the distance.

Signposted as a bridle path, go through the gate and into the wood until you reach a clearing, and continue on the track ahead. Follow this road all the way back to a single road lane. Turn right then take the first left heading for Ty Uchaf and marked as a private road.



Views back over The Berwyns towards the Dee Valley.

Arrive at the farm and keep left past the large blue shed on your right, and head for a stile with a yellow arrow in the right hand corner of the pens. Pass through the field keeping right and close to the fence, until you arrive at a small metal gate. Cross the little bridge and go straight across the track and up and over into another field (may be horses.) Continue straight across the fields and over two more stiles, passing another farm below you, until you arrive at a small gate above the third farm.

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Cross the field keeping left (there may be horses). The stile here is very high and can be quite tricky to get your legs up and over. So take care with this one.

You'll then cross a few more fields and stiles, following the yellow arrows until you eventually cross into a field with a gate and house directly on your left. Stick to the footpath just below the fence line in the bottom field and head for the left corner straight ahead.

You will then emerge on the lane you started on just above Llandrillo; so turn right and follow it back to the main road, then turn left, then right into the village car park.