

Trip Report: Snowodnia

Date: 17th January 2004

Group: Jim Grant (leader), Bob Harris, Colin Christie, Dave Cadman, Mike Arrowsmith

Route: The Nantlle Ridge

Total Distance: Unknown

Total Ascent: Unknown

Weather: Fine and dry, bit icy in places

Time: 5 hours 55 mins

Y GARN (The Cairn)

Go through the kissing gate on the Beddgelert to Caernarfon road opposite the car park. A slate flagged footpath heads across the fields to a whitewashed house Tan y Llyn. Turn left in front of the house and cross the Afon Gwyrfai at a footbridge to join a track. Follow this until it joins the road from Rhyd-Ddu to Nantlle at the bend and then immediately take the bridleway that heads southwest towards Y Garn. A stile is reached and the footpaths on the hillside beyond have been marked with white arrows painted on the rocks. Ignoring the arrows to left and right climb steeply uphill following white arrows until you leave the farmer's land. A clear path climbs straight to the summit over grass with excellent views of the steep rocky face, which the mountain turns towards Mynydd Mawr. This ascent of nearly 1500 ft is probably the hardest climb of the walk. Nearing the summit the substantial stone wall is crossed at a ladder stile. On the summit there are two huge ancient cairns but the highest point is the small untidy cairn at the northern end of the ridge on a little promontory.

MYNYDD DRWS-Y-COED (Door to the Wood Mountain)

Follow the ridge to the towering bulk of Mynydd Drws-y-coed. Keeping near to the steep drop on your right, climb up over rough rocks and boulders picking the easiest line to the top. The ascent is one of the best bits of the whole walk with enjoyable scrambling and excellent situations and it comes as a surprise to find that the top of the rocks is not in fact the summit. This is a little further on, an area of smooth grass just beyond the ladder stile without even a cairn.

TRUM Y DDYSGL (Ridge of the Dish)

From Mynydd Drws-y-coed a truly alpine path with a tremendous drop to the right leads down to the col and then climbs steeply up to Trum y Ddysgl. The easy climb up is less than 200 ft and you quickly reach your

third summit, which is at the northern end of the flat broad grassy sweep, it has no cairn.

MYNYDD TAL-Y-MIGNEDD (Mountain at the End of the Bog)

Walk across the smooth grass of Trum y Ddysgl top to the southern end then head south-west down over grass to the col. An easy walk up, again over grass, joins and follows a wall to the summit with its tall stone tower, built by quarry workers to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee.

CRAIG CWM SILYM (Silyn Valley Crag)

Follow the fence south down the wide grassy ridge until it narrows and then slither down a slippery path to the broad grassy col of Bwlch Dros-bern. Follow the fence up to a steep rocky buttress where the path detours round to the right to make an easy ascent slanting back to the ridge. A good path then picks its way through the rocks and, staying close to the edge, climbs steeply straight to the summit area, finally crossing a boulder field to arrive at the highest point, a hollowed out ancient cairn. The top is a broad stony ridge and about 200 yards beyond the cairn is the remains of a square tower-like structure.

Follow the ridge descending over boulders to locate the top of the southeast ridge. After a short initial stony section easy grassy slopes, with a precipitous drop on the left, lead down to join a stone wall. Cross this at the first ladder stile and continue beside it until the ground steepens. The easiest line is now away from the wall beside a gully over steep grassy slopes to reach the ruined cottage in the valley below. Cross the head of Cwm Pennant to a bridge and then climb steeply beside the fence for 300 ft to an old dismantled railway track. Turn left on the track for a short way and then right, after the embankment, to climb to the ruined Prince of Wales Quarry over grassy slopes. Follow the path up to Bwlch-y-Ddwy-elor through the quarry. The track then descends through the Beddgelert Forest to join a forest road. Crossing the forest on these roads, turning first left then straight across the next junction, leave it at a small gate and follow the footpath back to Rhyd-Ddu.

Jim G