

WALK 11

LLANGURIG, GLAN FEDWEN AND ELAN VALLEY

DESCRIPTION A more challenging walk of about 10.5 miles, taking in fields, forest and moorland with some fairly steep slopes over rough ground. There is an opportunity, part way round, to take a short cut and reduce the walking distance to just over 6 miles.

START The Bluebell Inn, Llangurig, (GR 908899)

DIRECTIONS As Walk 8

1 Turn RIGHT out of the car park and then LEFT along the main road. Between the Post Office and Craft Shop, turn RIGHT along the road and cross the River Wye. At this point you join the Wye Valley Walk for a little way. Bear RIGHT at the fork and, after about 250 yards, go through the gateway on your RIGHT marked as a bridleway. Follow the track as it zigzags up the side of the hill on your left and, on the ridge, joins another track coming in from your left. Turn RIGHT along this track and continue along the ridge for almost a mile, until you reach a gateway next to some sheep pens.

2 The bridleway divides at this point and you should bear LEFT here to follow the track around and along the side of the hill. Although faint at first, the track becomes more visible a little farther on. Follow the track to a wicket gate in the forestry fence and, passing through the gate, walk AHEAD, keeping the tree line to your right, until you reach a broad forestry track crossing from right to left. *(At this point you may reduce the overall length of your walk to about 6 miles by turning right here, going directly to point 6 and following the return directions from there)*

3 Turn LEFT along the broad track for about 100 yards and then, just past a fire beating station, turn RIGHT along a narrower track climbing through the trees and follow it to a wicket gate at the forest edge. Go through the gate and walk AHEAD, along the ridge of the hill as it slowly descends. Before the last, steeper slope to the valley floor, bear LEFT and go through the gate you will see in the fence across your front. *(The ground here is quite rough and wet and you need to look out for some of the deeper holes.)* After passing through the gate, bear RIGHT to cross the stream and then locate the Rain Gauge to ensure you are in the right location. With the stream behind you, climb the side of the hill to your front until you are some 50 yards or so away from the stream, and then turn LEFT along the hillside and down the valley, keeping the stream to your left, to Bodtalog Farm. When you reach the farm fence, turn RIGHT along the fence line then follow it as it curves LEFT and then AHEAD down to the finger post and the tarmac road.

4 You are now in the upper Elan Valley. Turn RIGHT along the road for about a mile. You will pass a stand of trees on your right at about the half way point, and then a pool down to your left before you turn RIGHT at the finger post about 300 yards beyond. The bridleway is easy to follow up to and along the ridge of the hill until, after about a mile, you come to a wicket gate in the forestry fence line with a short stretch of open field before you enter the trees.

5 Ignore the track that appears to go up the hill to your left and walk AHEAD, into the gap through the trees. The track here is quite narrow in places and often seems to peter out. Do not be tempted to follow more distinct gaps in the trees to your left or right, but continue along the line the track until you can see a broad forestry track slightly above you on your left, which your own track will meet. Turn RIGHT along the broad track. After 150 yards or so you will note another track joining you from your right and, farther on still, you will come to a track curving off to your left, by a fire beating station. *(You are now at point 6 and, if you were to continue ahead, you would return to point 3 after about 300 yards)*

6 Turn LEFT here and, after about 50 yards or so, turn RIGHT along a trail through the trees and follow it for about 100 yards to a wicket gate. Go through the gate out onto the hill and follow the track as it bears RIGHT up onto the ridgeline. Once on the top of the ridge, bear LEFT along the centre of the ridge and follow it down and back to the sheep pens and gate at point 2. As you descend you will have excellent views of the wind farms at Carno to your left, Llandinam ahead of you and Bryn Titli to your right. From point 2, retrace your route back down to the tarmac road and turn LEFT to go back to Llangurig and your start point.