

WALK 12

DYLIFE, TWYMYN VALLEY AND PENTRE CILCWM

DESCRIPTION a very scenic and, in parts, spectacular walk along the side of and then climbing out of, a glaciated valley having SSSI designation. The walk is about 6 miles long and very steep at one point as you climb out of the head of the valley. The views are impressive and include streams cascading down the steep valley sides.

START Roadside parking below the Star Inn at Dylife (GR 861940)

DIRECTIONS From Llanidloes, take the B4518, signposted for Llyn Clywedog and Staylitttle. Stay on the road for about 8 miles until you reach Staylitttle and then continue for a further 1.75 miles or so before turning LEFT for Dylife. After about half a mile you will pass a finger post on your right (to which you will return) and then a viewpoint, also on your right. About three quarters of a mile past the viewpoint you will note the remains of old mine workings on your right. Turn RIGHT just past the workings and park on some of the open ground at the side of the road.

1 Walk back down the road, and pause at the viewpoint where there is an information board and excellent views down the valley. Continue down the road and turn LEFT at the finger post. The track is well defined and climbs initially, before following the ridgeline alongside the valley. You will pass through 4 gates as you slowly descend with magnificent views of the valley and Afon Twymwn to your left. Near the head of the valley, on the opposite side, you may note a cluster of tepee type dwellings. (*This is a site used for much of the year by groups wishing to experience alternative lifestyles and you will pass through the settlement later as you approach the climb out of the valley.*) Continue on to the point where a track drops down the hill to your left and pause.

2 At this point look across the valley and to your right to the farm, Cilcwm Fawr, below you. To avoid confusion later, you should note the fence on the hillside along the back of the farm, along which the path goes rather than going through the farm itself. Descend along the track dropping down to your LEFT to its link with the tarmac drive. Follow the drive towards Cilcwm Fawr and, just before the drive bears left in front of the farmhouse, look out for and follow the footpath signs taking you RIGHT, through a concrete yard and then bear LEFT along the fence as it climbs the hill along the fence behind the buildings. The path passes through a gate before dropping down to your LEFT to the river. Turn RIGHT alongside the river, keeping it to your left, and follow the path along the bottom of the ridge. On meeting a fence on your left, do not go through the

gate into the field but continue AHEAD, keeping the fence line on your left for about 400 yards. On reaching the next gate on your left, go through it and walk diagonally right down the bank towards the gate and stile by the river. Cross the stile here, keeping the river on your left and, 100 yards or so farther on cross the river. Keep the river to your right now for about 200 yards until it bends sharply left. At this point, cross the river again, passing through the field gate on the far side and walking diagonally RIGHT towards the settlement.

3 Look out for the way marks and follow them LEFT, up the hill and follow the track as it zigzags its way out of the head of the valley. This section is very steep and you should take advantage of many pauses to admire the view. At the top follow the path as it bears diagonally right to the stile. Climb over the stile into the field and continue AHEAD, keeping the fence line on your right, and follow the fence down to the small river, Nant Bryn Moel, along which you turn LEFT to the bridge. Cross the bridge and go through the gate, following the well-defined track up the slope and through the gate into the field where you continue AHEAD and then go through the gate and onto the tarmac drive by the house. Follow the drive and bear RIGHT at the fork to the Star Inn. You may, of course pause here for refreshment but, no doubt, the more hardy souls will continue the 200 yards or so back to their vehicles at the start point.