

WALK 5

GLYNDWR'S WAY AND THE CLYWEDOG VALLEY

DESCRIPTION A walk of approximately 6 miles, the first half along Glyndwr's Way with extensive views from Garth Hill over to Bryn y Fan and the old lead mine workings at Van, and returning along the picturesque Clywedog valley back to the market hall.

START Old Market Hall, Llanidloes.

1 Leave the Old Market Hall along Long Bridge Street and turn LEFT at the roundabout and on over the Severn Bridge. Turn LEFT immediately along the road signposted to Llyn Clywedog and continue for about 200 yards until you reach the finger post directing you off RIGHT along Glyndwr's Way and the Severn Way. Continue along the trail through Allt Goch wood until you reach the point where Glyndwr's Way bears off to the LEFT and follow the way marks until you reach the golf clubhouse.

Turn RIGHT along the tarmac drive and over the cattle grid for about 50 yards where you will follow the marked trail to the LEFT along a drive through a farm. Walk AHEAD, up the lane and look out for the way mark post on your right indicating that Glyndwr's Way leaves the bridleway at that point, and take the stile to your LEFT.

Follow the way marks down over two more stiles and, at the second of these, bear diagonally RIGHT down the field and exit via a field gate onto the road.

2 Turn RIGHT along the road and, after about 25 yards, again pick up the way mark for Glyndwr's Way and bear LEFT over the stile. Follow the way marks down the fields over 2 further stiles, and leave the fields through the gate onto the Van road.

Walk AHEAD straight over the road and along the drive towards Garth farm but don't miss the way mark taking you off the drive to your RIGHT, up through a small patch of woodland. As you follow the well-defined track along the fence line, you will see expanding views over the hamlet of Van and the old lead mines. The trail rises up to a fence with a gate and stile by a small quarry. Cross the stile and emerge into open fields through which the trail continues AHEAD as a green track, below and to the right of the top of Garth Hill. Go through the LEFT hand of the two gates ahead of you where the trail continues along a narrow lane. On exiting the lane through a gate, follow the marked trail sharp LEFT, and then sharp RIGHT when it meets the fence. Keeping the fence to your left, cross over a small footbridge next to a stile and then go through the gate next to another stile. As the trail reaches the drive to Pen y Banc farm, go over the stile to your LEFT, into the field and walk along the

fence parallel to the drive until you exit over a further stile onto the tarmac road.

3 Turn RIGHT along the road for about 250 yards, then turn LEFT towards Llyn Clywedog and, after a further 200 yards or so, turn off LEFT along the drive to Dyffryn. Walk through the farm buildings and, on reaching the 'L' shaped building in front of you, turn LEFT and leave the farm through the gate AHEAD and, after passing through a further 2 gates, reach and continue along the tarmac road. The road slopes down through Brithdir wood with the Clywedog River down to your right. After about 600 yards, the road takes a sharp hairpin turn to the left then right. About 200 yards further on, it does the same, but immediately before this second 'kink' follow the track off to your RIGHT, down the hill with a stream on your left. Continue down past some buildings to your left to the river Clywedog where, turning to your RIGHT, you cross the old iron footbridge over the river. Climb out the other side, through a gate to meet a well-established track joining you down hill from your right.

Turn LEFT along this track and, where the track bears off to the left, go through the field gate immediately AHEAD of you. Keeping the tree line to your right, continue along the top of the field, through 2 further gateways and, after crossing a small stream (sometimes dry in the summer), go through the gate into the forestry plantation. Keeping the edge of the wood to your right, follow the track until you emerge onto a grassy track and follow it with a caravan site to your left, over the river Clywedog. When the track meets a gateway to a bungalow, take the short path down to your left, over the stile, and continue down through an old kissing gate, over a small footbridge and climb up the field to the stone track along the forestry fence line.

Turn left along this track and follow it through a gate until it meets the tarmac road, which you follow back down into Llanidloes, crossing the bridge over the Severn and back to your start point.