

## **BERWYN MOUNTAINS – A CIRCULAR WALK FROM LLANARMON D.C.**

This walk follows Afon Ceiriog in its upper reaches, across wild moorland, forest and more heather moorland to return via an old drovers' road. You may see Black Grouse or hear them; if you are lucky you might get sight of a Hen Harrier, and hear the Curlew.

The walk: it is 8½ miles long, starting from the small village of Llanarmon Dyffryn Ceiriog. It crosses moorland where the path may not be very clear at times, and there is a stream to cross; be prepared with good boots, map and compass (and know how to use them). It is quite a strenuous walk; allow at least 5 hours.

How to get there: from Wrexham take the A483 south to the junction with the A5, take the third exit at the roundabout to the next roundabout, 1<sup>st</sup> exit into Chirk. Turn right to the railway station, where you turn left, and then right onto the B4500, though the beautiful Ceiriog Valley for 11 miles to Llanarmon D.C. There is limited parking in the village, so please park carefully.

In the centre of the village is a signpost. Leave the village by the road for Swchcae-rhiw. You have about 2 miles of walking along this lane, however there are very good and varied views along this road; it is especially fine in autumn when the leaves are turning colour. Although there is very little traffic, take care as there is some farm traffic, and at weekends you may meet off-road vehicles. When the lane becomes a stony track; turn right indicated by a footpath signpost. This is Swchcae-rhiw. (There is a steep sided valley off to the right which contains several waterfalls, but we are not going this way).

A track climbs up the hillside, soon after passing a small plantation, and then some small crags, the track ends, and one is now on a large area of moorland. There is a faint path, and waymarks on posts, but in mist set a bearing of 345 degrees. Further on the path descends across eroding peat to a footbridge, and then cross a stile. Continue across marshy ground until you reach a track; the waymark points ahead, but turn right along this track. At the next junction of tracks, bear right heading towards the forest. Ford a small stream to a stile by a gate. (Note: a short distance to the left is an interesting monument to a local mining engineer James Darlington).

Follow the forest track (the trees have been cleared from part of this area), bear right at the junction of tracks, and up a small rise bear right again. After 70 metres look to your right for a post with a blue bridleway waymarker, and a small gate in the fence. Turn right off the track, and onto the moorland. The path is clear, and rises steadily. There are good views over towards Vivod. After about 1.5km the path forks, and is marked by a post with two waymarkers; take the right (yellow waymark) footpath. At first this is a clear path through heather. There is a stile to cross by a boundary stone. The path might be a bit boggy in places, and keep the fence to your right, and head towards a plantation. The path now meets an old drovers' track.

Turn right and go through the gate, and follow the track due south. It has been badly eroded in places by off-road vehicles. The view has changed again and now prominent is the ridge of Mynydd Tarw, with Cadair Berwyn and Cadair Bronwen beyond. On reaching a white cottage the track joins two sealed lanes, bear right. It is all downhill now with views across to Llanarmon. On reaching the road, turn right, cross the bridge, and you are back in the village.