



21 GWYNEDD Y LLETHR

► Distance: 11¼ miles/18.9km ► Time: 5-6 hours ► Grade: Challenging



SEE
FEATURE
ON PAGE 54

Rhinog Fach and Llyn Hywel
with Rhinog Fawr behind.



PHOTO: MATTHEW PIKE



CHOSEN BY...
MATTHEW PIKE
The Rhinogs in
western Snowdonia

National Park have a reputation for strenuously steep, rocky and pathless terrain. But the highest peak in the range, Y Llethr (756m), is surprisingly benign – its domed top at odds with its northerly neighbours Rhinog Fawr and Rhinog Fach. This stunning horseshoe walk which also encompasses the rounded peak of Diffwys (750m), avoids the heart-fluttering scrambles and sudden drops. But the rewards are plenty, with vistas of the Irish Sea, Llyn Peninsula and the major peaks of southern Snowdonia, with a particularly

wonderful view over the rugged Rhinog Fach and Llyn Hywel to the north.

1 Start

Upon leaving car park, turn R and head through gate. Continue along track until shortly after a second gate. As you approach a small crest, take a boggy path branching R, leading to a scenic stone bridge called Pont-Scethin.

2 2¼ miles/3.6km

The path continues, veering L at first, then sharply R for the steep ascent, where the views are rewarding. Shortly after passing a broken wall, turn L at another wall and follow ridge uphill with striking views all around. ➡

PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking Small car park (£1 charge) at the end of Ffordd Gors, Dyffryn Ardudwy, off the A496, north of Barmouth grid ref SH602230

Is it for me? Ascents and descents mostly gentle, but with a few steep sections. Paths often boggy and sometimes uneven and rocky underfoot

Stiles 4

PLANNING

Nearest town
Barmouth

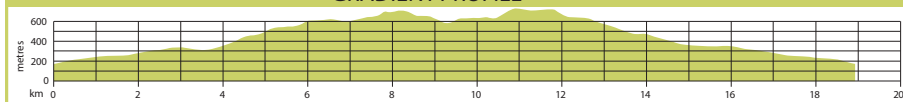
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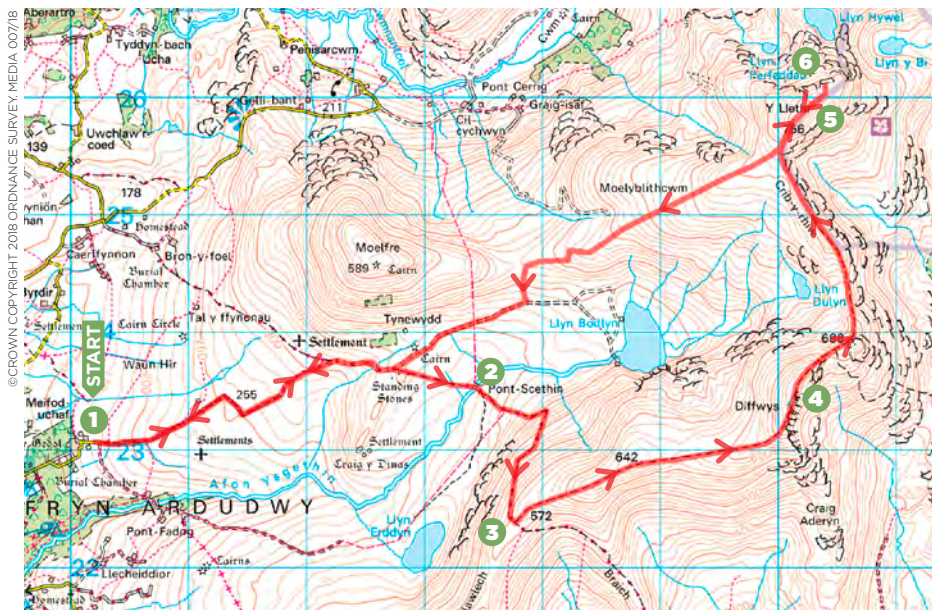
Public toilets
None on route

Public transport Arriva Trains Wales (tel: 0870 218 4859) run trains from Barmouth to Pwllheli, via Tal-y-bont and Dyffryn Ardudwy, both less than two miles from the start.

Maps OS Explorer OL18; Landranger 124

GRADIENT PROFILE



► OS Explorer map OL18 ► Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop

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3 3¼ miles/5.3km
Keep wall to your right as it heads over a nameless 642m summit and bends L for the climb up Diffwys. You'll see the summit trig point on the opposite side of the wall, at which point climb a step stile and continue along the ridge with a steep drop and sensational views to your right.

4 5 miles/8km
After a short, steep descent, climb a step stile L over the wall. The path cuts the corner but soon rejoins the wall. Continue along the ridge, keeping close to the wall. The path is sometimes unclear but undulates agreeably among

rocks and small tarns. Eventually you reach a wall, over which you climb a step stile and continue the final slog to the top of Y Llethr.

5 6¼ miles/10.8km
It's well worth continuing past the feeble-looking cairn, following the wall and, shortly before a drop, taking a small path a few metres down to the left for a striking view over the wild and rocky Rhinog Fach, with the remote Llyn Hywel to its side and Rhinog Fawr behind.

6 7 miles/11.2km
Retrace your steps back over Y Llethr and down to the

wall, climbing over the step stile and turning R. A small path descends gradually, joining a rough, boggy track which you follow as the wall disappears to the right. Soon the track bends L, joining the main track near the foot of the valley. Turn R, passing the point you left the track earlier, and retrace your steps back to the car park. **CW**

VIEW THE WALK ON OS MAPS ONLINE:

lfto.com/cwroutes

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



OS MAPS



Ordnance Survey

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DATE WALKED

TIME TAKEN

YOUR RATING

