

# Trefriw, Llyn Geirionydd and Llyn Crafnant

**Start** Trefriw

**Distance** 8 miles (12.75km). Shorter version 7 miles (11.25km)


**Approximate time** 4 hours (3½ hours for shorter version)

**Parking** Trefriw

**Refreshments** Pubs and cafés at Trefriw, café by Llyn Crafnant for those doing the shorter walk


**Ordnance Survey maps** Landranger 115 (Snowdon), Explorer OL17 (Snowdon – Conwy Valley)

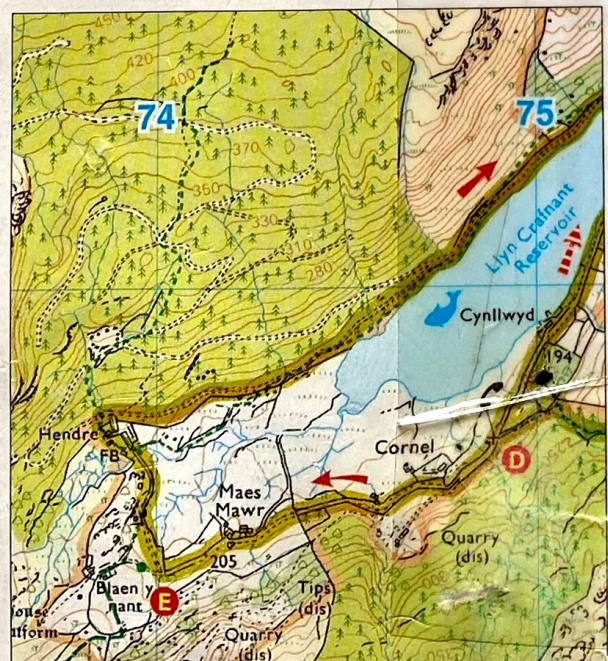
## GPS waypoints

-  SH 782 631
- A** SH 778 629
- B** SH 766 615
- C** SH 759 603
- D** SH 748 606
- E** SH 740 603
- F** SH 753 616
- G** SH 773 632

*On their eastern flanks the Carneddau drop steeply to the broad valley of the River Conwy and in the narrow side valleys that cut into the range a number of reservoirs have been constructed. They blend in with their surroundings so well that it is difficult to tell them apart from natural lakes. This fairly undemanding walk takes in two of these lakes as well as areas of conifer forest and deciduous woodland, and provides constantly outstanding views over both the mountains and the Conwy Valley.*

Trefriw occupies a fine situation below the wooded slopes of the Carneddau on the western side of the Conwy Valley and is noted for its woollen mill where visitors can watch the various stages in the production of tweeds and tapestries. Just to the north of the village is the Victorian spa of Trefriw Wells.

 From the car park walk up to the woollen mill and turn left along the road. Take the first turning on the right along an uphill lane, following it as it curves to the left past houses. Just before it bends to the right turn left along another narrow uphill lane, Jubilee Road. Where this bends left, **at** fork ahead right up a path marked as 'Trefriw Trails 5' (TT5), rising to a lane; here turn right.



**A** In 50 yds (46m) turn left at a fingerpost (TT5) beside a garage, joining a stony path up through the woods. Climb a stile and at a fork in 150 yds (137m) keep right (TT5), tracing the easily graded path through these old native oak woodlands high above the Afon Crafnant. Stay on TT5 as the path starts to descend, accompanying a wall then using a hand gate. Cross the slab bridge and take the lower path beyond, shortly crossing the remains of an incline high above the old Klondyke Lead Mine. Keep ahead on the grassy old tramroad track bed, climbing two ladder-stiles to reach a tarred lane; walk ahead beside this for 100 yds (91m).

**B** Turn right through a kissing-gate on to a stony track across the foot of Llyn Geirionydd. At a low waymarked post beside a small barn your way is left - to your right here is a monument to the 6th century bard and poet Taliesin, said to have been born hereabouts. Pick up the path that follows the edge of the lake, shortly climbing a stile. Beyond, woodland clothes the shoreline; pass below old workings and then over the snout of a small promontory - *for the next waterside half-mile take extra care with your footing as the conifer roots are treacherously slippery even in dry weather.* A stile eventually leads out of the woods onto a grassy path; follow



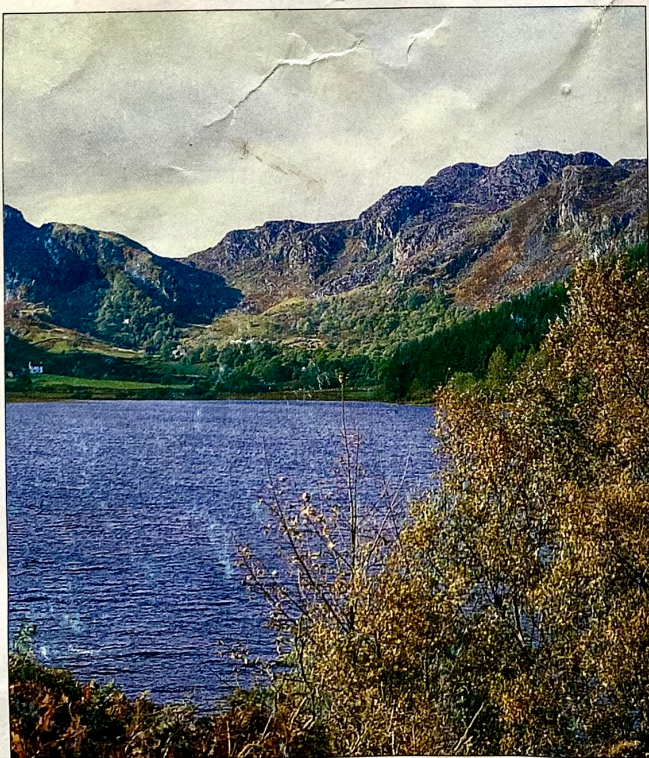
this to and through a stile onto a stony forestry road near a house.

**C** Bear right, uphill. About 30 paces before a sharp right bend take the narrow path on your right. Rise to and straight across the forestry road into a boggy path. At the top, again cross straight over the road and climb a wide grassy path to rejoin the forestry road at S-bends. Turn uphill; as the road bends sharp right, fork left onto a rising path marked by a blue-topped post. Pass through a broken wall to start a long descent through thick woodland into Nant Crafnant. At a waymark post in front of a ladder-stile turn sharp left (not over the stile), stepping across a stream and dropping to a lane above the head of Llyn Crafnant **D**.

*At this point those wishing to do only the shorter version of the walk can turn right along the lane to rejoin the main route at **F** below. This way has pleasant views over the lake and passes the café by the lakeshore.*

Turn left and follow the lane for nearly  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile (1.25km). Go through the

*Llyn Crafnant Reservoir*



gate **E** and turn right along the rough lane. Pass below a chalet and walk to and through the first of two gates across the lane. Cross the footbridge, right, use the metal gate on the left immediately beyond and trace the main gravelled path ahead, marked by yellow-tipped posts, up through the fir plantation to a ladder-stile near a waterfall. Climb this stile and scramble up to a low, waymarked post; here turn right down the wider path, remaining on this to join a forestry road beside Llyn Crafnant. Follow this through to a lane near a monument.

**F** Turn left (*those on the shorter version continue*) along the lane and follow it for  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles (2.4km), past a car park and through largely oak woods, with views across to the austere Klondyke mine remains.

**G** You'll eventually reach, on your left, a small waterwheel and old stone-built mill. Here, turn right and cross the warped wooden bridge, slip through the gate and turn back left on a path sunk behind the embanked track. In 20 paces look up right for a wooden hand gate through the hedge; take this and turn

left to an open gateway beside a tree (TT7 waymark disc here). Look half-left for a waymarked post (TT7) and walk through the wooded pasture above the Afon Crafnant, then join the line of fence (left) to find a kissing-gate. Keep left of the swings and then bungalows to a T-junction. Turn left, cross the river bridge and go first right. At the fork keep right to walk through to a crossroads. Turn right, drop to the main road and turn right to Trefriw Woollen Mill. Turn left to find the car park. ●

