

## WALK 24

*Moel Siabod*

<b>Start/Finish</b>	Bryn Glo car park SH 736 570
<b>Distance</b>	11km (7 miles)
<b>Total ascent</b>	730m (2395ft)
<b>Grade</b>	Moderate
<b>Time</b>	4hr
<b>Terrain</b>	Hill paths, a brief avoidable scramble and forest tracks
<b>Maps</b>	OS OL17 Snowdon/Yr Wyddfa and OS OL18 Harlech, Porthmadog and Y Bala
<b>Access</b>	Bryn Glo is on the A5 2km (1 mile) south of Capel Curig
<b>Parking</b>	Car park at Bryn Glo

For those approaching from the east Moel Siabod enjoys a brief spell of fame. As you progress up the A5 from Betws-y-Coed it is the first of the big mountains to come into view, its knobbly ridge drawing the eye and making it centre stage. But it is a brief stardom. Once past the outdoor centre at Plas y Brenin everything changes: the pointed tops of the Snowdon Horseshoe shoulder their way to the front, screaming for attention, and Siabod finds itself slipping into the wings. That's a bit unfair, as Siabod is a fine hill, and also has one of the finest views of Snowdon and its acolytes. A little confusingly, the Ordnance Survey maps give it the name Carnedd Moel Siabod, although it is actually the northern buttress of the group known as the Moelwyns.

As you walk take time to peer over the wall down to the falls and cascades on Afon Llugwy below.

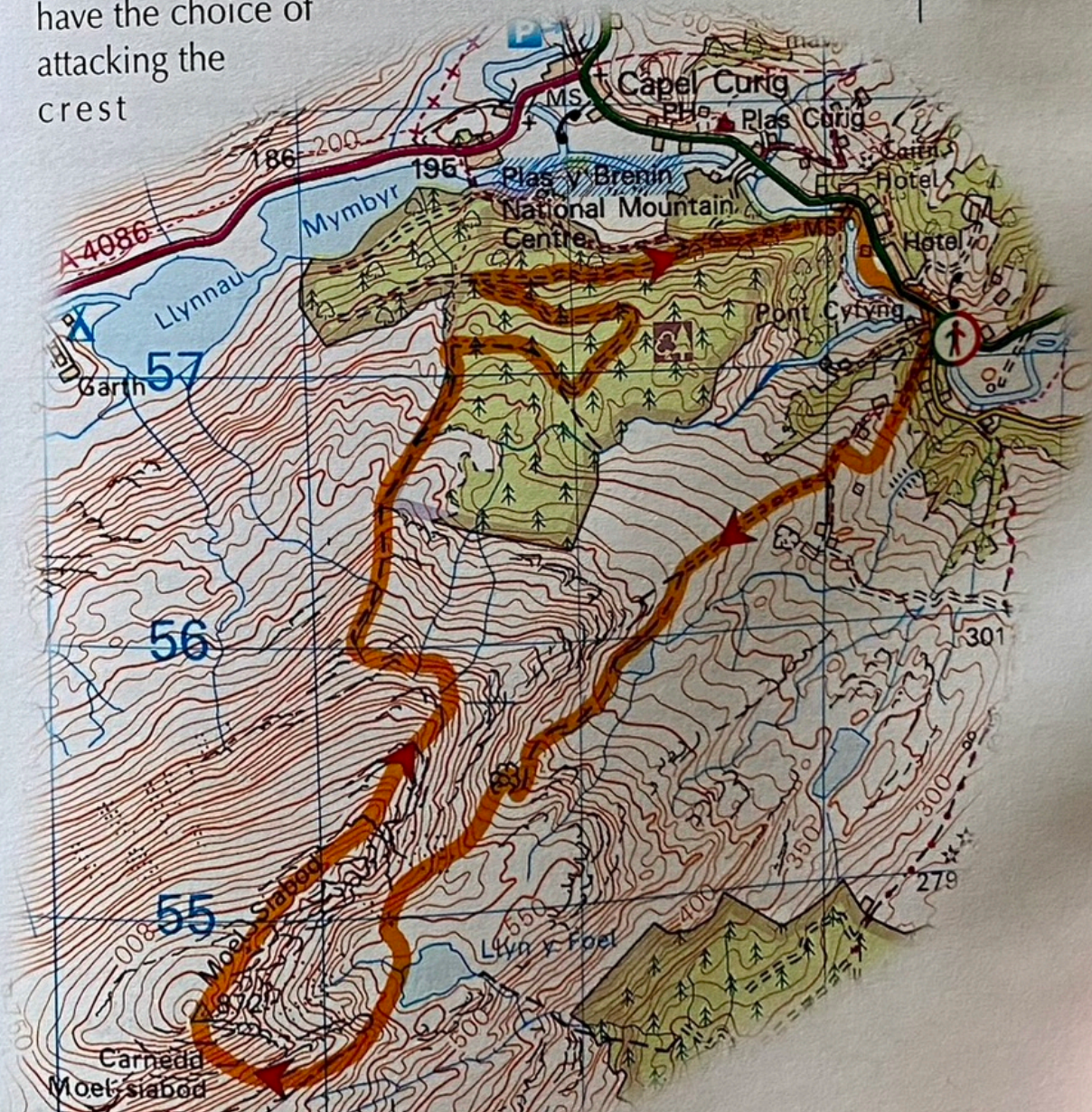
From the car park, where there is a handy café for post-walk refreshments, cross the road and turn right towards Capel Curig. ◀ After a couple of hundred metres turn left over the attractive arch of **Pont Cyfyng**. Walk up the lane. At the houses take the right hand fork up a surfaced lane signed to Moel Siabod. Carry on up the lane until a sharp right hand bend where a broad track goes straight ahead to bypass the buildings of Rhos Farm. After it re-joins the track beyond the farm by a small terrace of holiday

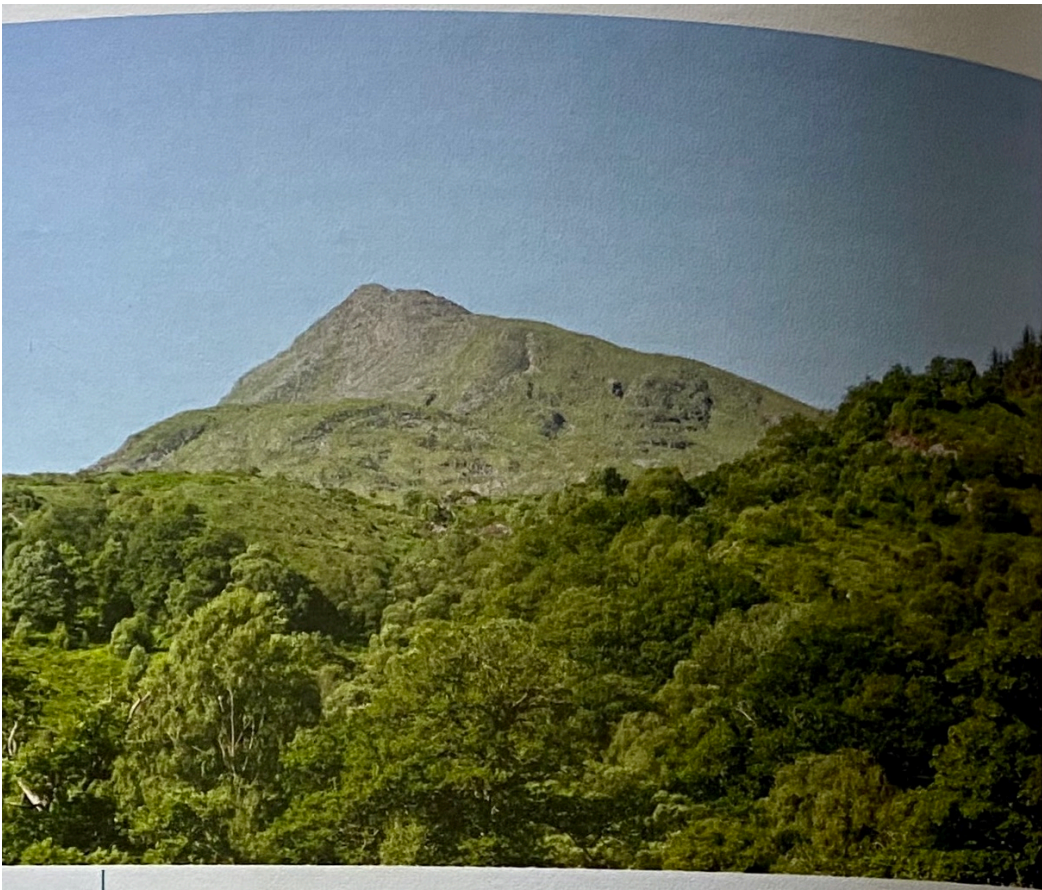
cottages the summit of Moel Siabod comes into view across the moor. Climb a stile by a metal gate and carry on up the now rough track, aiming for the peak.

The path continues climbing steadily and unerringly to reach a small but picturesquely set tarn. Pass to the right of this and continue up through quarry spoil heaps, passing to the left of a flooded pit with a couple of attractive waterfalls tumbling into it and press on up the slope.

At the top you are rewarded with the sight of **Llyn y Foel** in the shallow bowl below and the western hills beyond. The path picks its way as best it can through the often boggy ground to the right on the lake and aiming for the rocky ridge of Daear Ddu beyond, seeking what dry ground it can find.

Once the crest is gained there are two distinct options. The pedestrian variation, in every sense of the word, takes a track which rises on the left hand side of the ridge. Those who prefer a more entertaining ascent have the choice of attacking the crest





Siabod

directly via a series of enjoyable and fairly easy slabs, grooves, walls and pinnacles closer to the rim of the cwm. The routes meet on the main ridge leading to the top of **Moel Siabod**, where the final slope climbs beside a fence to the summit rocks.

The views from **Moel Siabod's summit** are second to none, with the sharp tops of the Snowdon Horseshoe, the great humps of the Glyderau, the rocky turrets of Tryfan and the domes of the Carneddau stretched across the horizon.

From the trig point and a large circular windbreak head off north east down the summit ridge to a grassy col where the path heads down leftwards in a more northerly direction over a maze of low rocks. The path is easily lost at this point amid the jumble of boulders but don't worry, it is equally quickly rediscovered once the rocks have been crossed and the turf resumes. It angles down across the hillside, making for the distant buildings of **Capel Curig**: if they cannot be picked out aim for the far (eastern) end of the twin lakes of **Llynnau Mymbyr** below.



Follow the path over double stiles and then across a more boggy section followed by rocks, until a block of forestry appears ahead. Carry on down the path heading for the trees, crossing two stiles to enter the woodland. Where it joins a wider track turn right and shortly after, at a junction on a bend, take the left hand, lower option. The path drops gently until it reaches a barrier. Go past this, ignoring a turning down to the left and a hundred metres or so further on trend rightwards through another barrier. Stay on the path until shortly after a flight of stone steps the path divides. The left hand branch crosses a footbridge to the main road and a pub if you are desperately thirsty, but the right hand branch carries on following the river downstream, traversing more open ground to a footbridge. ► Cross the bridge and turn left up onto a vehicle track to arrive back at **Pont Cyfyng**. Turn right down the road to reach the Bryn Glo car park and café.

*Daer Ddu Ridge*

Having escaped the trees this more open section offers fine views back up to the summit of Moel Siabod.

