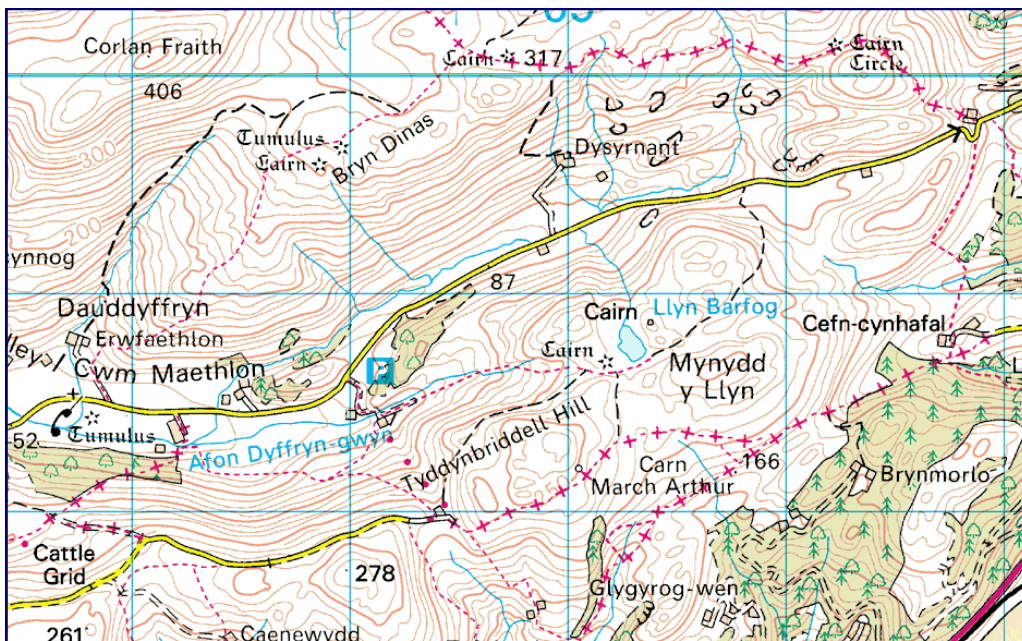


18**M**

BEARDED LAKE

2.5 Miles

Start at the Happy Valley Car Park. To get to Happy Valley turn right out of the hotel towards Tywyn, about quarter of a mile before Tywyn you will see a cottage on the right and a sign post directing you towards Happy Valley. Drive up the valley for approximately 3 miles until you see the sign post for the car park on your right.



Go through the gate and walk along the track which curves past farm buildings. Cross the stile and continue. Cross a further stile and follow the track. The track will bear left, follow the direction indicated by the sign along a grassy path. Continue ahead to pass through the gate. The track climbs uphill to another gate which leads you to the Bearded Lake.

The lake is slightly to your left. Enjoy the amazing views from here. On your return you will reach a fence with a gate across the track. Go through the gate and on for approximately 25 yards to a track that curls to the right. This leads to a better track bearing to the right.



Bearded Lake Myths and Legends

The lake is covered in water lilies from late June until September. This may have given it its name.

However it is said that a very large hairy monster lived in the lake and the name "bearded" refers to this creature. Legend has it that this monster was dragged out of the lake by King Arthur's horse and in doing so a mark was left in the stone at the side of the track which can be seen today.

A fairy tale associated with the lake is about a magical cow which came into the possession of a farmer of Dysyrnant, half a mile to the north. This beast gave birth to many fine calves and provided gallons of rich creamy milk. As a consequence the farmer became very wealthy. However as the cow grew old the farmer decided to fatten her up and slaughter her. As the butcher was about to kill the cow, the knife fell from his hand. A loud cry followed and a woman dressed in green with her arms raised appeared. It was an Elfin dame coming to reclaim her cow. As soon as the cow heard her cry it ran towards the lake, plunged in and disappeared forever. The farmer never prospered again and was soon as poor as he was before.

You will see a slate slab on the right "Carn March Arthur", on the right. An indentation in the rock is said to be the hoof print of Arthur's horse. Continue along the track, crossing the next gate and stile. Soon the track starts to descend. You will reach a house with a large National Trust signpost on the path. Take the right hand track. This leads you to a steep decent down tot he car park.