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# Dysynni Valley Walk

## 6.5 Miles

From the hotel turn right towards Tywyn. Drive through Tywyn towards Bryn-crug, on reaching Bryn-crug drive into the village, turn right after the small bridge, then left, signposted Craig Yr Aderyn. Drive along this road for approximately 5 miles passed Castell y Bere, down a hill and park opposite the church in the small car park.



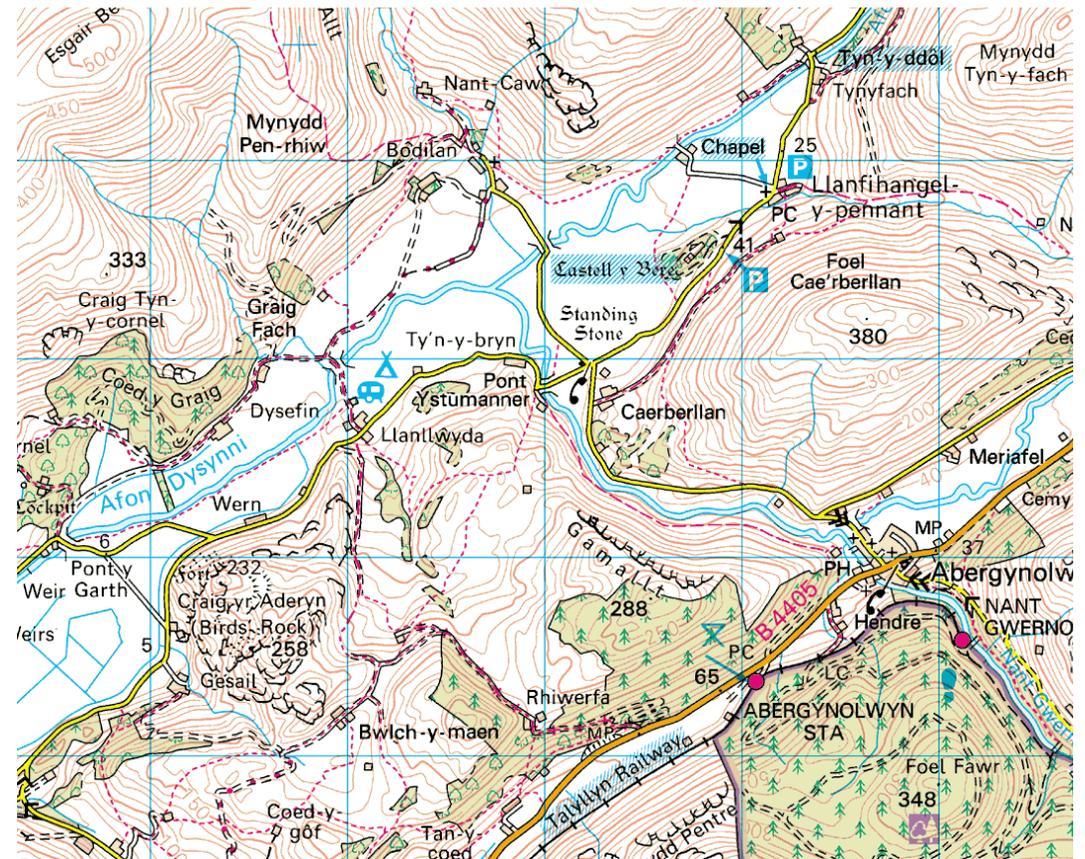
Walk north up the lane between the church and the cottage. As it bends left on the approach to a farm, go right over a ladder stile and along the track ahead. Go through another gate behind the farm and fork right, climbing steadily on a stony track, continue past an old quarry. Soon after a stream crosses the track, climb a stile on the left.

*Fifteen year old Mary Jones walked 30 miles through the mountains to Bala in 1800 to purchase a Welsh Bible. Unfortunately when she arrived they had sold out. However struck by her enthusiasm the minister gave her his own personal copy. He was so impressed with her, it inspired him to found the British and Foreign Bible Society, which continues to provide copies of the Bible throughout the world. You can see the monument to Mary Jones here.*

Descend to cross a footbridge over the river and then climb diagonally left to a stile on a bridleway. Turn left to reach Tyn-y-ddol where Mary Jones lived.

Just beyond the remains of her cottage go straight ahead at a footpath sign. The path runs beside the river passing two farms until it meets a stone wall. Keep on in the same direction but just to the left of a wall. A series of stiles leads you on to pass a third farm, after which you turn left by a stream beside a chapel.

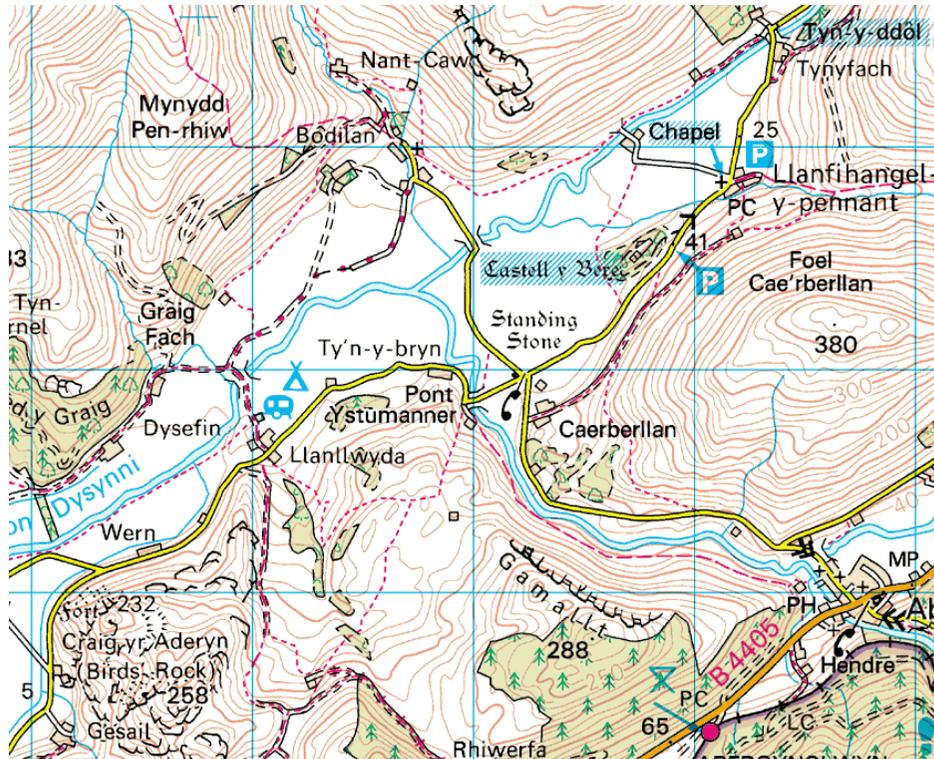
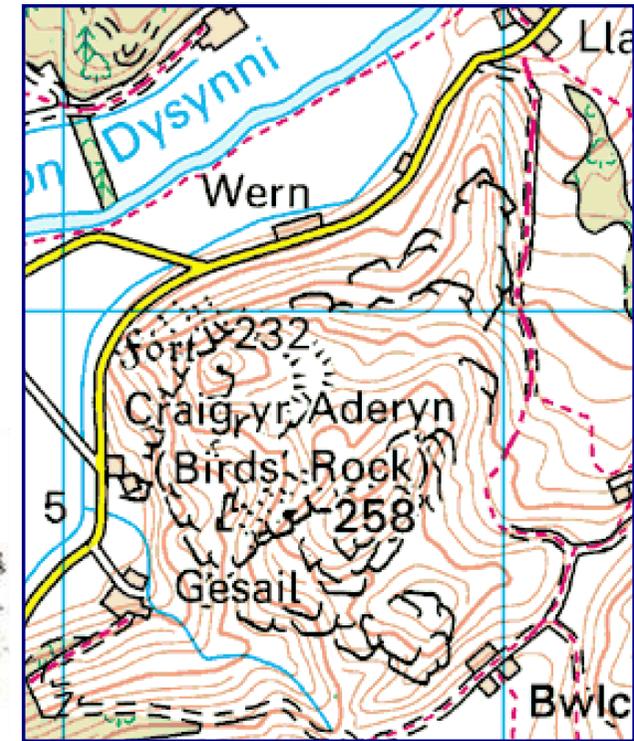
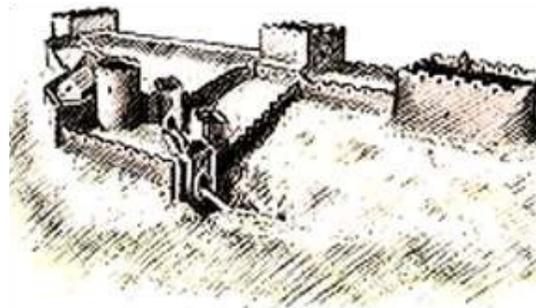
Turn left along the lane then right over a small bridge and along a track which runs between fields before entering them. Continue along the field edges, soon you will see the river on your left. At a junction with another path, continue forward. The track soon curves left then right crossing two bridges to reach a caravan site. Walk through the caravan site and farm to reach the road.



Turn left and follow the road for 1 mile. Shortly after crossing a bridge by a farm, turn right at the crossroads, signed Abergynolwyn. After 100 yards turn left through a gateway then straight ahead to a gate.

Follow a track which contours along the lower slopes of a hill, opposite Bird Rock stands. Go through a green painted iron gate on the left and head diagonally right across a field to cross a stile onto the road.

*As the walk continues along the side of the valley, the improbable bulk of Bird Rock dominates the landscape. Craig Yr Aderyn reaches 250 meters. The rock is so called because it has a large number of cormorants nesting on it. You may see the cormorants that nest here, it is one of the few inland sites for this sea bird, going back to the time when the valley was covered by sea and salt marsh.*



Turn right passing the entrance to Castell y Bere, it is well worth a small detour here before you return down the hill back to Llanfihangel-y-Pennant.

*Another of Llywelyn ap Iorwerth's castles, Castell Y Bere was built after 1221 in Merioneth. The castle was impressive, with strong towers, simple curtain walls, and strong rock-cut ditches.*

*A rectangular tower with one end rounded off provided an advantageous field of fire on the most vulnerable side. This 'D' shape was quite unique and marked out the Welsh castles from their Norman counterparts. This tower probably contained the royal chapel where the princes would worship, whilst evidence of deep cisterns for a constant water supply meant that the castle was well-prepared for being under siege.*

