

# 21 MONMOUTHSHIRE BLORENGE

▶ Distance: 7½ miles/12km ▶ Time: 4 hours ▶ Grade: Moderate

SEE  
FEATURE  
ON PAGE 42

Mined ground with Abergavenny and Skirrid Fawr to the north.

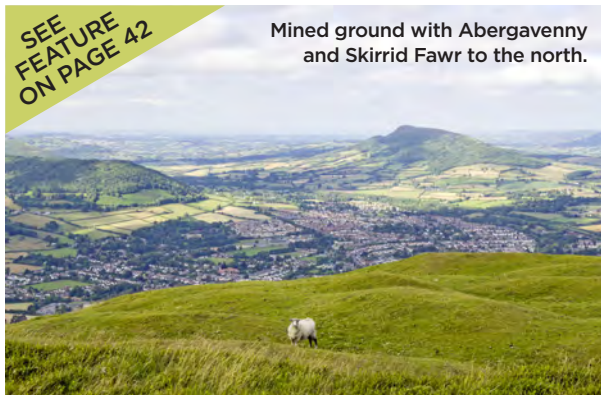


PHOTO: STEVE EDDY



### CHOSEN BY... STEVE EDDY

The Blorenge is Abergavenny's

much-loved local hill to the south of the town, vying for residents' attention with the Sugar Loaf to the north. Once marked by iron and coal mining, the Blorenge still bears traces of this industrial heritage, and a particularly pleasant stretch of the walk runs along an old miners' tramway which led down to the canal at Llanfoist. This route coils around the mountain (at 561m it definitely qualifies), making for a varied and gradual ascent, and taking in an unexpected feature - the Punchbowl, a wooded glacial cwm containing a fine lake.

Magnificent old beeches border the path leading down to it. A further feature, near the peak, is Pen-ffordd-goch Pond, otherwise known as Keeper's Pond after a local gamekeeper, built to provide water to Garnddrys Forge around 1817.

### 1 Start

From the car park (great view of Skirrid Fawr), go steeply downhill and turn L along a tree-lined track sloping down to a lane. Turn L, and after 300m L again before the drive to Upper Ninfa, up a sunken path with old beeches. Follow upslope around to R to reach a gate on the R at SO282113, with two 'No vehicles' signs. (Alternatively,

## PLAN YOUR WALK



## ROUTE

**Start/parking** Free parking at grid ref SO284109

**Is it for me?** Paths, tracks, lanes. A few fairly steep ascents and descents (the steepest, at start, is avoidable)

**Stiles** None

## PLANNING

### Nearest town

Abergavenny

### Refreshments

Bridge Inn, Llanfoist (1km)

### Public toilets

None

### Public transport

Trains and buses to Abergavenny

### Maps

OS Explorer OL12

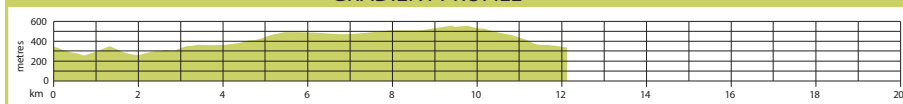
Landranger 161

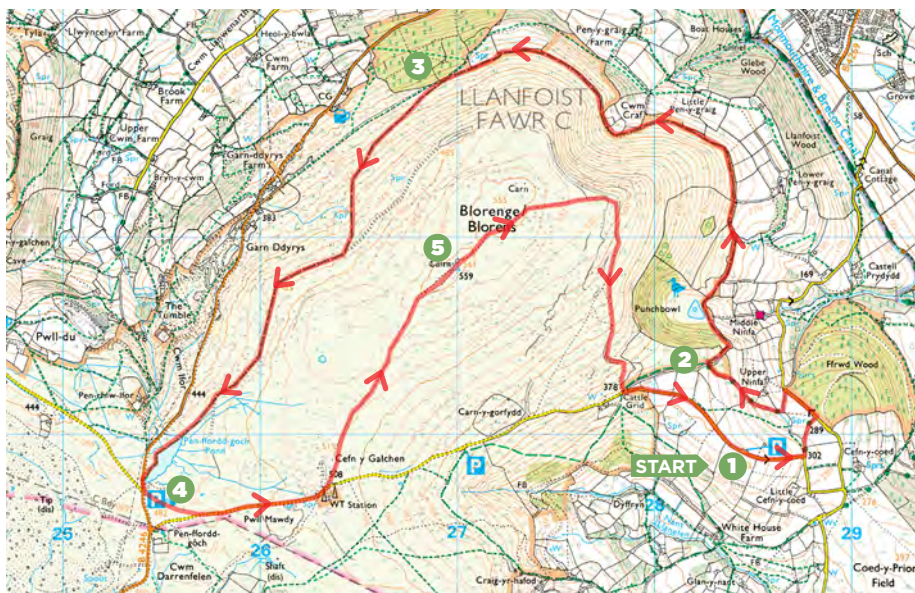
to avoid the descent and ascent, reach this point by heading uphill from the car park and turning sharply R along bridelway signed Coed Cadw and Punchbowl.)

**2 ¾ mile/1.25km**  
Go through the gate



## GRADIENT PROFILE



21 MONMOUTHSHIRE  
BLORENGE▶ OS Explorer map 161 ▶ Buy maps at: [ordnancesurvey.co.uk/mapshop](http://ordnancesurvey.co.uk/mapshop)

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and down a fine beech-lined sunken path opening out onto the lake in the Punchbowl. Continue past the lake on the obvious path along the lower edge of the rough country to Cwm Crafr. At a new sign on the footpath from Llanfoist, head uphill towards Garn Ddyrys. The path snakes between bracken around the cwm, beginning to wind anticlockwise round the hill, and soon reaches a long stretch of level and almost straight tramway, marked by large flat stones.

**3 2½ miles/4.25km**  
At an obvious fork on the tramway, with a plantation to the R, go L following a footpath

sign to Keeper's Pond. The path goes gently uphill for 1km, passing a low stone sign for Govilon and Llanfoist, then levels out as Pen-ffordd-goch Pond (Keeper's Pond) comes into view. Follow the edge of the pond to the car park.

**4 3¼ miles/6km**  
From the car park beyond the pond (a lake in size), cut along the undulating green path E to join the lane crossing the moor. At the WT Station, with a car park named after a horse called Foxhunter, buried nearby, the summit comes into view across a gentle slope to the NE. Follow the path to the summit trig point.

**5 5 miles/8km**  
From trig point, follow path NE, with large cairn over to L, and to mine-pitted land on edge of escarpment, and with views down to Abergavenny and beyond. Near a strange little hut, the path turns due S. Follow it downhill to the lane and L to return to start. **CW**

**TRAILZILLA ID:**  
TZID31022

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