



Pumlumon three ways

Three routes to the top of this spectacular peak, the highest point in the Cambria Mountains and Mid Wales. On a clear day you will be rewarded with fantastic views in all directions

Points of Interest

A. Pen Plynlimon Fawr

At 2468 ft, the summit of Pen Plynlimon is the highest point in the Plynlimon massif and the mountains in Mid Wales. On a clear day there are spectacular views in all directions. The other important peaks are Pen Plynlimon Arwystli, Y Garn, Pen Plynlimon Llygad-bychan and Plynlimon Fach.

B. Ruined cairns

The scattered rocks near the summit are the remains of a Stone Age burial sites dating back to around 2000 BC.

C. Source of the rivers

Severn, Wye and Rheidol

The Plynlimon massif is the source of the Severn, Wye and Rhediol rivers. The river Severn is the longest in Britain at 220 miles. The smaller Wye flows eastwards to the Bristol Channel. The Rheidol rises from Llyn Llygad Rheidol which means **Eye of the Rheidol Lake**, on the north side of Plynlimon. Legend has it that Father Plynlimon had three daughters - Severn, Wye and Rheidol. He told them to leave home and that he would give them all the land from their home to the sea. Severn slipped quietly away taking the longest way to the sea -that is why she winds so much. Wye awoke, found Severn had stolen a march on her and went the prettiest way,

hence the beautiful course of the Wye. Rheidol overslept, knew she must hurry, took the shortest way westwards rapidly down to Aberystwyth. (Note the source of the Severn is not on this map and can be found at SN 857,869)

D. Llyn Llygad Rheidol

Llyn Llygad Rheidol is an excellent example of a tarn, which is a small lake at the bottom of a glacial corrie. A corrie is a Scottish term for a steep-sided armchair-shaped hollow in the mountainside of a glaciated area. They were formed by the weight and movement of ice grinding out the bottom and eroding the sides. It is difficult to reach Llyn Llygad Rheidol from Pen Pumlumon Fawr because of the scree and steep ground. An easier way is to follow the track from the start

point of route 3 all the way up and around to the lake.

E. Rheidol Hydro Electric Scheme

Opened in 1964 the Rheidol Hydroelectric Scheme is the largest in Wales, with a capacity of 56MW, producing enough energy for 12,350 homes. The collection dam at Nant y Moch is 172ft high and is the largest of the 3 dams and reservoirs in the scheme. The scheme is operated by Statkraft.

Walk Details

Walk 1

Time : 5 hours Distance : 2.5 miles

Start Grid Reference : SN 799, 842

Walk 2

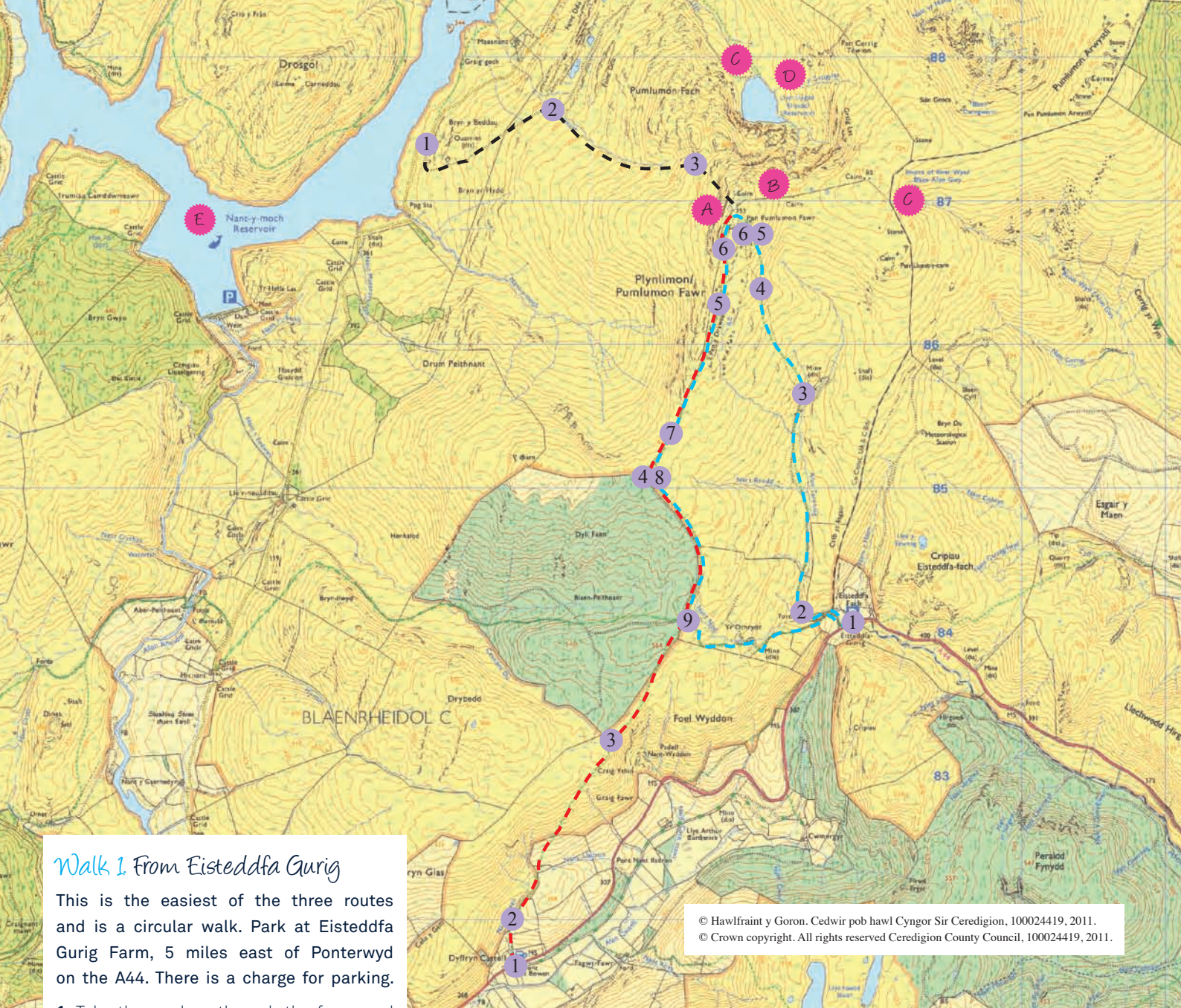
Time : 8 hours Distance : 4.5 miles

Start Grid Reference : SN 755, 818

Walk 3

Time : 2 hour Distance : 2 miles

Start Grid Reference : SN 768, 874



Walk 1 From Eisteddfa Gurig

This is the easiest of the three routes and is a circular walk. Park at Eisteddfa Gurig Farm, 5 miles east of Ponterwyd on the A44. There is a charge for parking.

1. Take the road up through the farm yard past the large workshop. Turn right and take the lower gate along the river Tarenig.
2. Follow the track around to the right where the Tarenig is joined by a stream
3. After passing the mine ruins leave the track and take a steep way-marked path to the left.
4. Continue to climb and follow the stone cairns to the fence.
5. Cross the fence via the wooden stile to reach the summit of Pen Plynlimon Fawr marked on the OS as trig point S1578. Catch your breath and enjoy the spectacular views.
6. Climb back over the fence and walk down for a mile, keeping the fence line on your right, passing two small ponds on your left.
7. Head for the fence on the skyline and continue towards the edge of the forestry.
8. Bear left and follow the fence down along the edge of the forestry.
9. When the path meets a bridleway, bear left and continue down to the start point, passing some old mine ruins.

Walk 2 From Dyffryn Castell

This is a longer way to the top and is a linear route. The start point is at the Dyffryn Castell Hotel, 2 miles east of Ponterwyd on the A44.

1. Take the stile on the left off the A44, to the eastside of the Dyffryn Castell Hotel and follow the footpath up keeping the stream on your left.
2. Continue to follow the path and climb up until you reach the edge of the forestry ahead.
3. Continue along the edge of the forestry crossing the necessary stiles.
4. Follow the path away from the forestry and continue to climb, keeping the fence on your left. Continue for a mile, passing two small ponds on your right.
5. Continue climbing for another half a mile.
6. Cross the fence ahead via the wooden stile to reach the summit of Pen Plynlimon Fawr marked on the OS as trig point S1578. Catch your breath and enjoy the views.

Walk 3.

From Nant y Moch Reservoir

This is the shortest route to the summit of Pen Plynlimon Fawr but also the steepest. To get to the start point, take the road to Nant y Moch from the village of Ponterwyd. After approximately 4 miles take the only metalled road to your right. (This is before the dam). There are a number of routes you could take up over this open land to the summit of Pen Plynlimon Fawr which is high above you on the right. One option is to park before the metalled road ends.

1. Walk along this road to the Maesnant stream.
2. From here follow the stream up over the steep ground to its source.
3. Bear right to climb the last steeper section to take you to the summit of Pen Plynlimon Fawr.

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