

Walk: NOC 02

Location: Mountain walks between Heol Senni and Ystradfelte

Directions: Aim for Ystradfelte but set your sat nav to travel via Heol Senni. Turn right out of castle heading north. With the Crai Reservoir on your left, take left turning up a narrow lane, signposted Heol Senni. Just before you get to Heol Senni (a clutch of houses) and before the bridge over a stream, turn right up a very narrow single track and continue for some miles. Eventually you come to a T junction. Turn right and head up a steep switch-back mountain road (some nice views looking back the way you came). The road levels out at the top of the mountain and there are various spots you can walk up here. However for the purposes of walk NOC 02, you turn left into a picnic woodland car parking area at the end of the long straight stretch. You could get someone to drop you off here and return the car to the castle, leaving you to walk back.

Distance (miles): 21.1 by car (but probably about 12 miles to walk back over the mountain).

Time (hours): 38 minutes

Length of Walk: 3-4 hours

Dates Walked: 21/04/2008,

Parking: Free

Pop in to: Nothing up here at all: very remote, desolate / scenic.

Description: To start the walk, come back up to the road on foot, cross the road, and take the gateway opposite onto a farm track through recently chopped down woodland. Follow this path for 2 ½ to 3 hours south west until get to Penwyllt. There are only a couple of turnings to watch out for. There is a left turn after you have dipped into a valley, passing a farm on your left. After this there is at some point a right hand turn after a couple of miles that I believe is signposted to Penwyllt. You then just keep on going along a flat open country side area, quite high up, then up a slight incline through some woodland, and then finally the path opens up coming out of the woodland and you bear left, following the path to the Caving Club.

Allow 3-4 hours for this walk, and maybe use an ordnance survey map to determine the correct paths to take (I did it by guesswork so you could take a chance too, but not in inclement weather). You will recognise where you are once back on the path to the Caving Club and Penwyllt) provided you do Walk EOC 02 first.

EOC 02 has you driving to Penwyllt station to park. On foot, on leaving Penwyllt, carry on down the lane and take the first signposted footpath to the right, through a single gate, down a steep stony track, which takes you down to the farm behind the Country Park. Turn right onto the lane, passing the bungalow and farm to your right, take the field gate onto the path behind the country park and return to the castle via the country park. You will then need to get a lift to pick up your car.

Hazard Warning: You are walking quite high up, for several hours with no shelter. A wrong turn could mean you are lost for hours. No mobile signals. Weather can change from sunny to sideways sleeting rain. Temperature drops in the evenings by several degrees. The paths are mostly stony tracks suitable for farm vehicles so are easy walking, but bring warm clothes. Walk is prammable except for steep footpath from Penwyllt (you can take the lane instead). A map would be sensible though I have never used one and

always found my way around because I know the area just about enough. Assuming no wrong turns, you can get back to the castle in just on 3 hours.