

Walk: WOC 06
Location: Llyn Brianne, including scenic circular drive

- Directions: Set your sat nav to take you to Ystradffin but set it to go VIA Abergwesyn. Check where you are going against the map in case your sat nav does not take you on the correct lanes.
- This recommended route takes you on a scenic drive with lots of views. Lanes are narrow, winding and steep in places as you drive through deep valleys with sheer drops on one side of the road, and several blind bends and summits.
- The route takes you through a series of valleys and forests and up some steep hills with switchback roads, until eventually you see the waters of Llyn Brianne before you. There are some nice stopping spots along the shore before you get to the dam itself. The drive around the reservoir alone is several miles long.
- Before you get to Ystradffin you will see a sign to Llyn Brianne Dam, where you can park up in an area that used to be a quarry (presumably providing the material for the dam). You can then walk over the Dam and around the side of the Llyn Brianne reservoir.
- Outward Journey: Scenic circular route as above:
- Distance (miles): 55.7 miles to a point south of Llyn Brianne (to Ystradffin) if going scenic route via Abergwesyn.
- Time (hours): 1.41 though this is to Ystradffin as per scenic route. The Llyn Brianne dam area would be reached a few minutes earlier.
- Return Journey: Direct from Ystradffin to Castle (not the way you came) to complete a circular drive:
- Time (hours): 0.56
 Distance (miles): 34.0
- Length of Walk: Circumnavigating Llyn Brianne is not possible; so you just go an hour or two or more round it clockwise (having crossed the dam), then walk back the same way you came.
- Dates Walked: 25/03/2008, 01/08/2008,
- Parking: Free
- Pop in to: Pub at Rhandirmwyn is worth a drop-in to break up the return journey. Nothing special but it is the only bit of civilisation in this area. Have eaten there once.
- Description: The circular drive is very scenic once you get off the A483. You will see on the map you can take one route to Abergwesyn via Beulah and another lane which goes off from Llanwrtyd Wells. If you go via Tirabad you will join the A483 at Llanwrtyd Wells, where you would then turn right (North) to Beulah – contrary to sat nav’s attempt to get you to go via Llanwrtyd Wells - before going on to Abergwesyn.
- There are various stopping places en-route, as you circumnavigate Llyn Brianne’s northern shores, eventually ending up at the dam which is sign posted off the road before you get to Ystradffin. The scenery and walks are excellent. See if you can spot the private beach area a few miles before the dam itself, about a third of the way along the reservoir; worth a stop for dogs to swim and chase sticks, also a suitable area for picnics and barbecues in good weather.

The walk itself is a mixture of woodland and views of the reservoir, not too hilly, as it more or less follows the shore of the reservoir, heading into the woods from time to time as you curve round. If you get bored of the reservoir, there are some woods you can detour into for a different walk.

At one point you can appear to be doing a circular walk back to the dam, but do not be fooled; there is no way back other than the way you came.

Pictures taken on 25/03/2008:

All aboard for Lyn Brianne Reservoir Walk:



This is in the picnic spot before you get to the dam; if you find it, it has a small beach & is suitable for a stop. It is after the windy mountain road (which has some very steep switchback single track roads) and after you come down a steep track winding down the other side.



There is a 'beach' to the left of this small peninsula



Here we are an hour's drive further along, at the dam



A bit bleak at the dam itself, with mountainside looking like an old quarry (stone used for dam presumably)



Path across the dam (not for cars)



View from the dam looking down into the valley



Path continues on from dam into some impressive scenery, views of reservoir and woods all around



Walk continues for miles from the dam



Scenic route to the reservoir area – Elan Valley end



Scenic route approaching Llyn Brianne from the north end



From the north end, as you approach reservoir, you will find below picnic area and small private beach



To get to picnic / beach area before dam, park here. Top (north) end of Llyn Brianne. (Dam is at south end)



Pictures taken on 01/08/2008:

These pictures are on one of the approach roads to the north of Lyn Brianne Reservoir. We found a non circular walk with a waterfall by just exploring all the roads in this area.





This is a non-circular walk with stream and waterfall, just off the road somewhere north of the Reservoir, in various lanes we were exploring. You may come across it. Most of this area is known as the Elan Valley.



Lynne Brianne....



Now we are walking clockwise around the Llyn Brianne Reservoir, but remember you cannot walk all the way around it. You could conceivably mountain bike all around it, but it must be 50 or so miles at least.



As well as open areas, there is, a little further on from the picture top right, a series of cheerful woodland paths which you can do a walk around in preference to continuing on around the reservoir paths. No sheep after the next gate beyond the woodland area so dogs can run freely.



Crossing the dam gets you to the excellent walks around the Reservoir. But of course you cannot walk all the way around due to the distance.



The longer you walk, you will pass through a series of woodland and open areas: excellent views.



I dived into one of the woodland areas and found a series of mossy paths, hardly ever walked on, so really peaceful and remote, yet only 40 minutes or so walk from the dam.

