

Walk: NOC 06
Location: **Woodland track off small lay-by off A483 between Cynghordy and Llanwtyd Wells**

Distance (miles): 27.8
 Time (hours): 0.40
 Length of Walk: 2 hours to 4 or more depending how far you go.
 Dates Walked: 20/02/2010

Parking: Free
 Pop in to: Llandovery

Description: Not a walk you would specifically search out and go to, but if you are heading north along the A483 from Llandovery or returning from the North towards Llandovery (through which any sat nav will take you on your return to the castle in preference to taking you over the military zone), then this is a walk with some surprises.

You would not think that it would be much of anything. It is not well marked, only a small footpath sign, the parking lay-by just up from a field gate. It is on your left if heading north up the A483 from Llandovery or on the right if heading south. I cannot be sure but it was somewhere between Cynghordy and Llanwtyd Wells. (There are additional walks south of this point on the opposite side of the road).

The woodland track is a steady climb, be warned. You wind up and up and up for about an hour, which, when pushing a pram, becomes an issue. Halfway up we hit snow and the temperature dropped. One minute there was no snow, then a line of snow was crossed. We were on a track with no footprints and just one set of vehicle marks.

A half hour further on and we came to a large open area, where the lone vehicle tracks ended. A track lead off to the left and a further track to the right. Neither had a foot print or vehicle mark on it. As we walked the untouched paths we enjoyed impressive views over alpine scenery, the setting sun a distant red glow colouring pink the still and silent carpet of snow, the branches of the pine heavy with snow. Unwilling to descend down the left hand path as we did not know where it would end up, we crunched along for a little further on the right hand track, still ascending slightly, before the path opened up revealing a plateau area after a mile or two of dense woodland. Clearly they had been harvesting the timber here, for here it was a wasteland of stumps, the trunks long since cleared, and beyond this, yet more forest stretching for miles into the dusky haze of evening.

As far as the eye could see, looking north east, was endless forest and tracks for mile after mile. Having spent an hour climbing, I got the impression it was all now fairly flat, so you would be assured of a further two or three hour more level walk.

I suspect if you carried on long enough you would get to Lyn Brianne, or one of the roads leading to it. One for a mountain bike exploration or possibly with a segway. Various paths leading off promised some circular walk options, but with night falling, we headed back the way we came, taking 40 minutes for the descent as against over an hour to get up.