

## ANGLESEY COASTAL PATH SECTION 8 – Min-y-Don to Llyn Rhos Ddu

### *Pathfinding Notes*

These notes are designed to provide more navigational hints for people doing the walk separately from the main group. They are based on the test walk by Magnus on 25<sup>th</sup> May. See the Route Description for a more general overview of the walk (and instructions on how to get to the Min-y-Don car park).

The Route Description document contains a map of the walk. You can also use OS maps, Landranger 114 or Explorer 263. The start is at grid reference SH 518 678 and the end at SH 429 650.

### **1. Min-y-Don to Anglesey Sea Zoo**

Follow the road out of Min-y-Don car park and up the hill. A short way up, there is a turn-off to the left (marked as "No entry for vehicles, except for access") with a sign-post for the Anglesey Coast Path (CP). Take this turn and follow the lane. After several twists and turns, you will come to another signpost for the CP pointing in two separate directions (3 if you count the way you've just come from). At this point you can either turn R and stick to the road for a bit longer or turn L and go off-road. The latter is the main route, leading directly down to the coast, and is the one the main group will be following if the tides allow (the alternative route, described below, is better if it is high tide).

Main Route: Go through the kissing gate and follow the path above a dried stream bed as it heads down towards the Menai Straits. You will come to another kissing gate, which takes you out onto the beach. Turn right here and walk across the beach, past a boathouse and a water outflow pipe from a field. Shortly after this, the path bears right up a green ramp away from the beach (there is a small CP marker, but it's in danger of being obscured by foliage). At the top, turn R and go up the lane, past a stone gatepost. You will eventually come to a roundabout next to the ruins of Llanidan church. This is where the alternative route rejoins the main route.

Alternative Route: *Turn R and carry on up the lane. The road soon ends in a farmyard, but the path continues on a dirt track, turning L at the pond you will see in the yard (it is clearly signed). After quite a while, it becomes a road again (at this point go straight on; don't turn left!). At the T-junction, turn L and go down the hill to the roundabout, where you will rejoin the main route.*

Continue up the road past the high stone wall on your left. When this gives way to a low stone wall, look out for peacocks in the enclosed area. Shortly after this, the walls are replaced by a hedge and the path turns off to the left, going over a stone stile into a large field. Once in the field, set out slightly to the right of perpendicular from the hedge (or go straight and then work your way round to the right once you reach the far edge of the field). There is a kissing gate in the wall at the end. Go through this into a wooded area.

Watch out for nettles as you go along this section. Eventually the path seems to disappear into a hedge, but it actually leads to a green-painted kissing gate. Go through this into the next large field. There is a long line of shrubs leading away from this gate, dividing two fields. You can walk on either side of this line (putting the shrubs on your right gives a nice view of the straits) but keep close to it to avoid trampling the crops in the field. At the end of the line of shrubs you will find another green gate, rather randomly placed as there is no wall or fence for it to cross.

In the next section of field, the shrubs are replaced by a wire/barbed-wire fence. Keep to the right of this so you can get through the gate at the far end. You will find two green kissing gates close together – go through both and carry on in the same direction. There is a particularly tall tree more-or-less in line with the gate at the far end of the next field, which will help you to find it.

After that gate, the next one is right at the base of the tallest trees up ahead, and leads directly on to another stretch of beach. Once on the beach turn right. After a very short distance you have the option of going up onto the road or continuing along the beach. Either way, carry on parallel to the water. You will shortly pass the entrance to Anglesey Sea Zoo and Halen Môn. Ignore the ladder-stile into the next field past the Sea Zoo, as this is for a different footpath.

Shortly after the Sea Zoo, there is a small car park by the side of the road, next to the beach. This is roughly the half-way point of the walk. A little way beyond it is a bench facing the straits; this is a good place for a quick rest.

A bit further along, there is a road junction. The main route continues along by the water (it is marked by a No Through Road sign), while the alternative route turns right and goes up the hill. Once again, the alternative route may be used if the tide is high. Otherwise, the main route is probably preferable.

Main Route: Carry on down the road, past the entrance to Foel Farm Park (NB there is a café here, and presumably loos as well; it is open from 10:30am to 5:30pm). Continue past the blue house (pausing to admire the dragon perched on top of the porch) and the other houses and onto the beach. Keep going along the beach until you are roughly level with Caernarfon castle. A marker at this point indicates that the path goes up to the right, so follow it (NB this marker could easily be obscured by foliage).

At the top of the steps, go through the gate and then the kissing gate directly ahead (the other two directions are both marked as private bridleways). Keep close to the hedge on the left side of the field. At the far end, cross the stile and bridge and go through the gate into the next field. Stay to the left as you go up the hill to the ladder-stile in the top left corner. At this point the alternative route rejoins. Cross the stile and turn left.

*Alternative Route: Turning right, go up the hill. Just past the top you will find some holiday cottages on the left, with a footpath signposted to the left immediately past them (NB this is not a CP signpost, but follow it anyway). The path is clearly signposted across the next several fields, with yellow arrows on green disks. Eventually you will go through a farmyard and then down a lane. There is a ladder-stile over the wall to your left. This is where the main route comes across the wall. Keep going straight on.*

Carry on down the lane. The first right turn is a private bridleway (although it's easy to miss the sign on the gate). Instead, keep on the main road (straight on / bear left). At the next junction, there is a sign for the Anglesey Riding Centre. Turn right at this point; the road starts going uphill and carries on for quite a long way. Ignore the (non-CP) footpath sign you'll see on a dirt track bearing R from the road as it curves L past a bungalow.

After the next few houses, as the road bears R again, the CP is signposted turning off the road to the L through a wide gate. Follow this. At the end of the green lane, go through another gate into the field. The exit from the field is nearly straight ahead, in the form of a slightly wonky ladder-stile across a stone wall. Cross this and turn R up the hill. Go through the gate at the top (there is a CP mark on the gatepost) and keep going in the same direction (it appears to be the driveway belonging to a set of holiday cottages). You will soon come out onto another road. Turn R here. Very soon (after about 2 houses), the path turns off to the left. There is a very narrow kissing gate and a wide gate for vehicle access. The latter may be easier to use if you are well-built or carrying a rucksack!

Keep to the right through the next field. At the end, there is a stone stile leading to a gravel track. Keep going in the direction you were previously following (i.e. turn R, not L, up the track). At the top you reach a yard. Turn R here and follow the stone wall along to a rusty, white-painted iron gate and a wooden stile. There is a tree overhanging the stile, so it's probably easier to use the gate here.

The track continues past some stone outbuildings and then you reach several gates. The second one to the L is marked for the CP. This area could get very muddy if it's been raining. Follow the path (which eventually bears right) until you reach another kissing gate. Go through this, then turn L and follow the hedge down the field. The next kissing gate is tucked into the corner of the field and hidden by bushes until you get close to it. The next bit of path is quite narrow and overgrown with nettles and brambles so you will probably want long trousers (and long-sleeved tops for children) and to take care.

Immediately after the next kissing gate, cross the stile to your left. The path for the next section could again be quite boggy. After a while, it runs alongside the river Braint (on the other side of a stone wall, at first). A bit later it is necessary to cross the river, which is fairly wide. There are stepping stones provided for the purpose. Take care crossing these!

After the stepping stones, the path runs straight up to the road (going through one or two gates first). When you reach the road, you will want to cross it to reach the pavement on the far side. It is a fairly busy road by local standards, but there is good visibility in both directions. Once on the pavement, turn left and walk down to the roundabout, which is quite close (and easily visible from where you join the road). At the roundabout, take the first exit (effectively straight on) and keep going down the road in the same direction. It is marked as a No Through Road and ends at the Llyn Rhos-Ddu car park, where our walk finishes. NB this is quite a narrow two-way road, so watch out for cars approaching from behind.