

Llyn Rhos-ddu to Moel-y-don

Distance: 12km/7½ miles

Start: Llyn Rhos-ddu SH 429 650

Finish: Min-y-don SH 518 678

OS Maps: Explorer 263, Landranger 114

Outline: This section—mainly along the banks of the Menai Strait—is flat, possibly the flattest section of the entire coastal path, with a total rise of only 127m/416ft. The path currently ends at Moel-y-don, restarting at Pwllfanog in the following chapter.

After stepping stones across one of the island's main rivers—Afon Braint—the path passes through a mixture of low-level farmland and foreshore. There are good views to the mainland across the Menai Strait and the landscape is particularly attractive as it narrows and becomes more wooded.

The route: Llyn Rhos-ddu to Moel-y-don

From the car park, walk to the roundabout on the main road. Go straight ahead here following the road for about 300m before turning right into an access road (chicken farm on the corner). This road is very straight and runs for over 1km½ mile giving access to several farms and cottages. At the end of the lane a gate leads onto a footpath which continues down to the tidal river—Afon Braint.

The river can be easily crossed by means of stepping stones (try to avoid crossing the stones at high tide as they do become submerged). Once across, turn left and walk parallel to the river. Where the river curves away to your left, cross two stiles over an embankment. Cross the next field, diverging away from a stream and go through a kissing gate and cross a ditch. Walk past an area of gorse to meet a step stile and immediately turn right through a kissing gate along a fenced path. Go through another gate into an open field and in the right-hand corner go through a kissing gate to join a hedged track. At a gate turn left up a second track to come out at a junction of tracks by some stone outbuildings. Turn right and pass the outbuildings, through a gate, and at the house, 'Cae Llechau' turn left down the drive. As the drive veers off to the right, bear left to a stone stile into a field. Follow the left-hand edge of the field to a kissing gate onto a lane.

Turn right along the lane. Very shortly at the house 'Tan Twr', turn left through the gate and follow the left driveway. Go through a gate and walk down the field to a stile in the left-hand corner of the field. Follow a track through more farm gates to come out on a lane. Turn right along the lane.

Look for the access road on the left to 'Cae Mawr' farm on a right-hand bend before you reach the end of the lane. Walk along the track to the farm, but before you reach it turn right over a ladder stile and down two fields to the shore. Turn left to follow the shore until it joins the lane

Allow at least 3 hrs without a break. At leisure with breaks at least 4 – 5 hrs.

Path generally well signposted.

➔ Be careful! No good pavement on the right-hand side. Pavement on left requires crossing road.

➔ Steady feet required. Damp, boggy area after boardwalk along river. Good walking boots or wellies required.

➔ Narrow path with stinging nettles. Long trousers (and sleeves for children) advisable.

➔ Long lane, go past Hogan Tal Gwynedd estate on left. Turn left at 'Anglesey riding centre sign' on a gate. Ladder stile is new. Animals in fields. Stones/gravel on shore. Check tides!

at Tal y Foel pier (if the tide is high you can continue along an inland path past 'Cae Mawr' to 'Cerrig y Barcud' and then down the lane).

Alternative route at high tide!

Walk ahead along the road which runs parallel to the Menai Strait with views across to Caernarfon on the right.

Past Foel Farm. Tea room, chocolate shop and toilets available. Also café and toilets at 'Anglesey Sea Zoo' (see below).

The modern town of Caernarfon was founded by Edward I in the thirteenth century when he built one of Wales' most famous castles, along with a new fortified town. Caernarfon was one of the ring of fortresses which Edward built around North Wales to keep the Welsh in subjection following victory over Prince Llywelyn and his brother Dafydd in 1282. It also controlled the southern entrance to the Menai Strait as Beaumaris would control its northern approach.

Caernarfon remained an important town during the Middle Ages and a number of ferries linked the town with Anglesey prior to the building of Telford's suspension bridge in 1826. One or two of these remained in use after the bridge was built thus saving those on foot a long round trip via Menai Bridge. The Tal y Foel ferry continued to operate until 1954.

Whichever route you follow you will eventually pass 'Anglesey Sea Zoo'. Continue until the road bears sharp left away from the shore by cottages at 'Barras Bach'.

Just before 'Anglesey Sea Zoo' there is some parking on the right along the shore.

Walk down onto the shingle beach here and after about 100m turn left where stone steps lead over the wall. Once in the field turn right and keep to the right-hand field edge. Go through a gate about 30m out from the field corner and cut directly through the following large fields following a line of stiles until you enter an area of rough grazing and trees. The well-worn path keeps to the left of the trees until a kissing gate next to stone steps and a small iron gate take you into a large field. Walk directly through the field to enter a quiet lane.

Keep to the right in the following fields along edge. Stiles have been replaced with new green kissing gates (ca. 0.5 mile).

Turn right down the lane and shortly reach the ruins of Llanidan church on the right.

Stone stile near left hand corner onto lane opposite of Llan Idan Farm, turn right. No obvious ruins.

The ruins date from the fourteenth century although the dedication—to Saint Nidan—is much older, probably from as early as the seventh century. The church was partly demolished in 1844, but prior to that served much of the area around Brynsciencyn.

At a leafy roundabout by the old church you have the option of walking the shore at low tide, or following a track slightly away from the coast.

Church open for prayer?

For the shore route, turn right at the roundabout and follow a track that bears left down onto the shingle. Walk along the shore for about 1km/½mile. Leave the shore through a kissing gate to join an old grassy track along the edge of a field up to another kissing gate to come out on the corner of a lane just south of Plas Porthamel.

Otherwise, turn left at the roundabout up the narrow lane overhung with trees and at the top of the rise, take the first lane on the right indicated by the 'coastal path' sign.

This quiet lane is high enough above the Menai Strait to allow a good view down to the water—which has the appearance of a large inland river rather than the sea—and across to the mountains of the mainland. The prominent gap in the hills is the Llanberis Pass, with the Glyder range to the left and the bulk of Snowdon to the right. The high plateau of the Cameddau lies to the east of the Glyder range, whilst the hills which make up the Nantlle Ridge can be seen to the extreme right.

Continue along the lane and when this bears right to the farm at 'Meini Gwynion', continue straight ahead on a grassy track. At a fork keep right and bear right near farm buildings at 'Plas Porthamel'. Follow the lane and turn left at a bend ignoring a track straight ahead (the shore option comes out here). At the next junction turn right and walk down to Moel-y-don car park on the edge of the Menai Strait.

Moel-y-don was the site of one of the many ferries which provided Anglesey with a link to the mainland for hundreds of years. It was from the jetty here that Anglesey quarrymen were taken across to Y Felinheli where they caught a train to the Dinorwig slate quarries. Slate produced by the quarries made the return journey to Y Felinheli ('the salty mill') from where it was exported all over the world, thus giving Y Felinheli the modern name Port Dinorwig.

Sign coastal path on the floor at the start of the grassy track.

Hence coastal path sign for three directions here.

Turn left at the junction for Llanedwen church, that will be open for prayer?

Turn also left at the junction to catch bus 42 (Padarn bus) between Bangor-Newborough-Llangefni. Ca. 20 min. walk to the bus stop on the main road. Stay on this side of the main road for the bus to Llyn Rhos-ddu car park (£3.- for adult single) or cross the main road to take the bus to Llanfairpwll, Menai Bridge or Bangor.

Timetable bus 42:

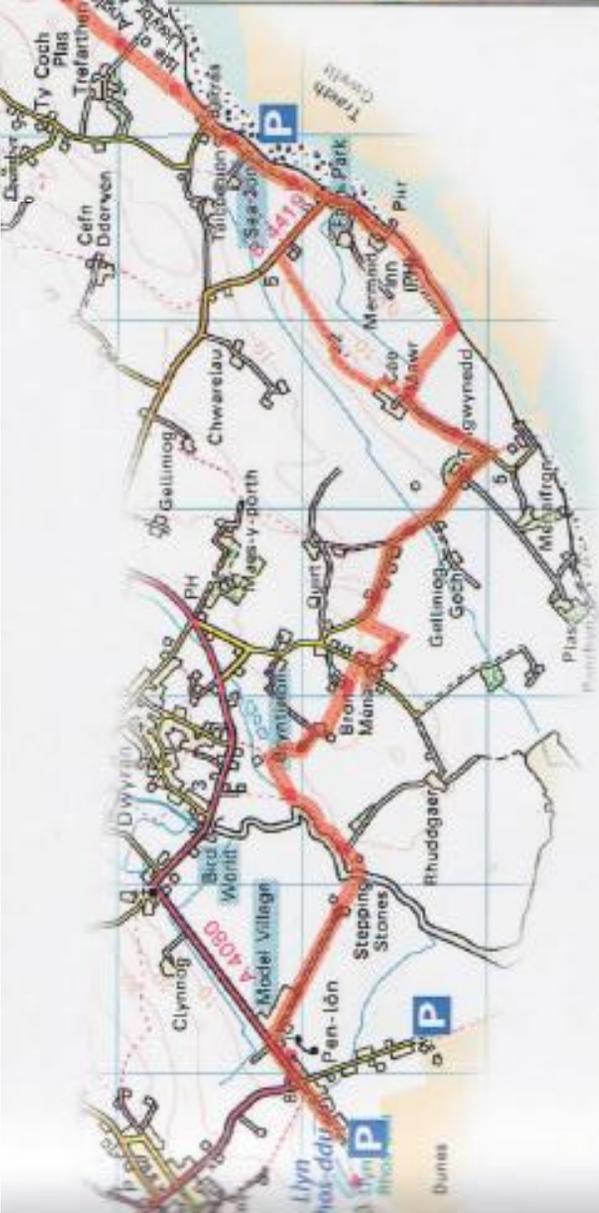
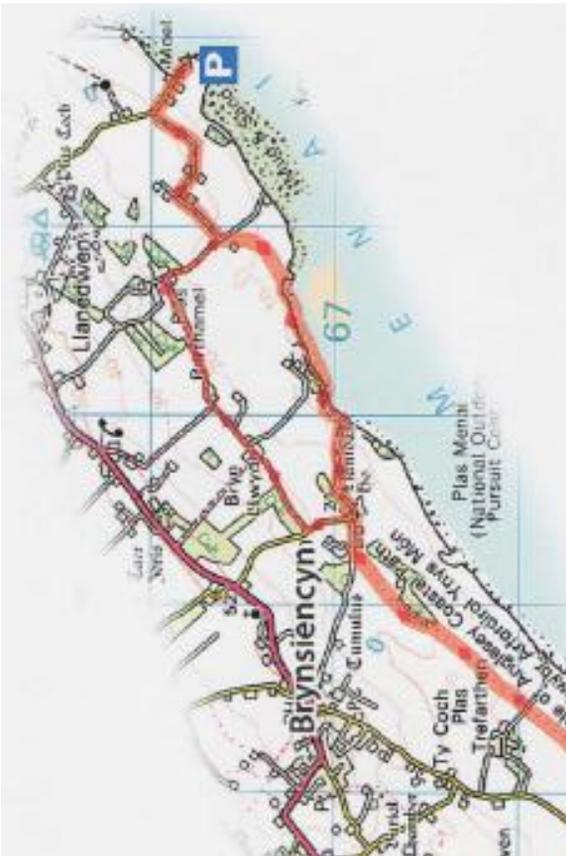
<http://www.anglesey.gov.uk/Journals/2013/03/22/u/d/w/42gwanhaf120313.pdf>

Reference.

Carl Rogers (2010). Walking the Isle of Anglesey Coastal Path. ISBN 978-1-902512-15-0.

<http://www.angleseycoastalpath.co.uk>

End
(Moel-y-don)



Start
(Llyn Rhos-ddu)