

## OFFA'S HYKE – ROUTE DESCRIPTION

*Abbreviations:* FP=public footpath; BW=bridleway; ODP=Offa's Dyke National Trail with acorn waymarks; m=metres; L=left; R=right; GR=grid reference; WNW, SE etc=points of compass. NB: NOT ALL GATES AND STILES ARE NOTED IN THE TEXT. START AND FINISH: Carpark at Bwlch Penbarras GR 161605.

Leave the carpark NW on the ODP. Continue to top of Moel Famau. Continue WNW on ODP steeply down to where the path flattens out about 600m from the summit. Turn L here on permissive BW. Follow waymarks to GR 142627. Turn R with wall/fence on L and open hillside on R. Continue for about 800m, still on BW, then through gate/stile. Cross road. GR 138633 [3.5 miles]

Over stile, then second stile, and follow FP over stream. Mud! Follow waymarked FP. Keep fence on L. Straight on over stile to ruined buildings where fork R up hill following waymarks and go through first gate. Bear R up hill keeping fence on R. Through gate at top, continue with wall on L. Through gate past more ruins. Fence on L. Over boardwalk, over stile, and immediately sharp L. Fence on L. Continue round the side of the hill to meet minor road. Turn R up road, which becomes track, and continue up hill (with Moel Arthur half left ahead) to road at GR 146657 [5.5 miles]

Turn L on road (towards Vale of Clwyd) and walk down road SW for about 600m. Turn R through gate on BW. Follow good track round head of pretty valley, turn L at two shepherds' huts, through wood, keep to L fork when in doubt. Past castle (??) and continue to road at GR 131664 [8 miles]

Turn L on road, round L-hand bend, then in 50m fork R on good track. Follow this track for about 2.5 miles, to GR 121689, where several tracks/paths meet. Turn R to join ODP here, with pine trees on L, and walk SE over Penycloddiau Iron Age Hillfort to carpark at GR 139668. Turn R on road, and shortly L to continue on ODP up hill, round Moel Arthur Hillfort, to road at GR 146657. *You have been here before* [12.50 miles]. Turn L on road in NE direction and in 200m fork R through gate to good track. Continue for 1.5 miles, ignoring Byway sign on the way, to crossroads at GR 166653 [14 miles]

Straight on, on road, and after 800m turn R through gate into field, just before house on R (FP arrow on gatepost). Keep hedge on L, through gate and down steep hill, through trees, through gate to road. Turn R on road and at junction turn R along unmetalled road. After 400m turn L, past Cae Newydd, on BW, then straight on. Over stream and along deteriorating track, straight on to board walk. Along board walk, keep fence on L. Follow blue arrows (BW) over several stiles/gates (mud!), past Castell, noting bad-tempered sign on gate, past farm, and two further houses on R, to road. Turn R. At Brithdir Mawr follow blue arrow. Cross stream/ford, then stile, and go due S through fields and over stream, to enter forest. Turn L on forest road. NB: *The priority of some forest roads may have changed due to forestry operations.* After about 800m, turn L at waymark and continue on this forest road, round the side of the hill, up and then down, eventually to the lower carpark at GR 172611 [19.5 miles].

Leave the carpark by the footbridge, past the toilets (or into them?) and on to path parallel with the road, to top carpark and FINISH [20 miles]

## OFFA'S HYKE – NOTES FOR ORGANISERS

A 20 mile circular walk with about 3500 feet of ascent on and around the Offa's Dyke National Trail, ideal for young people and beginners to long distance walking; with several "evacuation" points, great views, a bit of map-reading and compass work, easy car-parking, toilets, etc. Especially suitable for group expeditions as it is easy to marshal.

The entire route is on OS Landranger 116 (1/50000) and on OS Explorer 265 (1/25000). One of these should be carried, in addition to warm and waterproof clothing and adequate provisions. The weather can change very quickly. In summer it is wise to carry a good supply of liquid. *Organisers and walkers should be aware that the walk contains several steep ascents, which some may find difficult and demanding.*

The walk can start in several places, but the route description begins at the Moel Famau carpark on the Bwlch Penbarra road at GR161605. There is regrettably a parking charge here. Snacks are often available here in the summer. Toilets at lower carpark only – where you may prefer to start, walking along the path parallel to the road uphill to the top carpark to begin the route description. There is a parking charge here as well.

ROUTE: miles+/-

1.	Moel Famau Carpark	GR161605	
2.	Road at Fron Haul	GR138633	3.5
3.	Road at Moel Arthur	GR146657	5.5
4.	Road	GR131664	8.0
5.	Near TV mast	GR121689	10.5
6.	Road	GR139668	11.75
7.	Road at Moel Arthur again	GR146657	12.5
8.	Pedair Groesffordd	GR166653	14.0
9.	Lower Carpark	GR172611	19.5
10.	Moel Famau Carpark	GR161605	<b>20.0</b>

POSSIBLE CHECKPOINTS: There are parking facilities of various sizes at 1, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10. Since the road at Moel Arthur is visited twice, it would be sensible to have a main checkpoint there.

EVACUATION ROUTES: All the above points from 1 to 10 can be reached by car.

TOURIST INFORMATION: on 01824 703 992.

CERTIFICATE and WOVEN BADGE £3: available from Michael Skuse, Caenant, Llangynhafal, Ruthin, LL15 1RU (who also welcomes your comments on the route).

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