

Name: RoadWalk 2 Nant y Clyd

Route: Isallt Rd., country lanes, Isallt Rd.

Start and finish: Old Bus terminus

OS Grid Ref: SH 892 768

Parking: room for a few cars; do not obstruct the bus turning

By bus: Arriva 14 or 15

Distance: 5km (3.1 miles)

Total ascent 143m (470 ft.)

Time: 1 hour 32 minutes

Grade: Moderate; some long hills, locally steep.

Summary: A walk south of the village in open country.

Risks: None of the roads have pavements; traffic is generally light, particularly when beyond Isallt Rd.

Description

With your back to the bus shelter head half left across the turning circle to go down Isallt Road. The

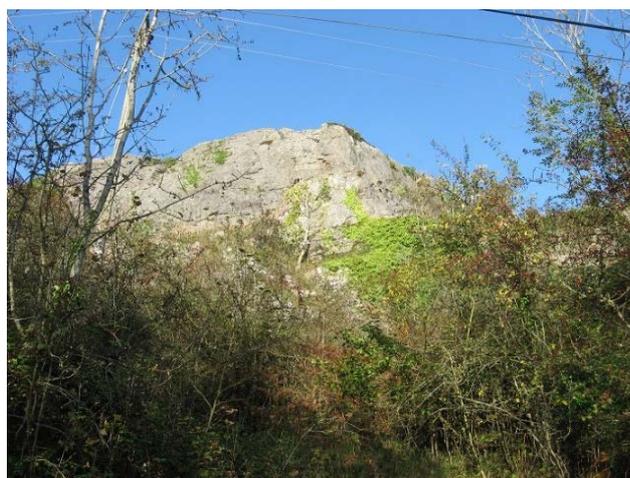


hill on the skyline is Moelfre Uchaf (396m; 1299ft.).

Go downhill passing Bryn Gollen on the left behind a tall conifer hedge.

At the sharp left hand bend a stony track heads right to join Dolwen Road just near the junction with Bwlch y Gwynt Road. The stile over the wall below looks down over fields to the valley where the parish boundary follows the stream.

Continuing on Isallt Road, pass Islwyn and the old farm and outbuildings of Tyddyn Elidir (by the tall pine trees) on the right. As you go down the road



there are impressive cliffs of Carboniferous Limestone above on your left.

The road marks the approximate southern limit of the limestone; to the right, below the road the muddier fields lie on the Lower Carboniferous Ffernant Formation (formerly referred to as the Basement Beds) of red sandstones and mudstones. These are softer than the limestone and are rarely seen in outcrop.



Continue past Isallt Farm down below on the right. *Isallt is a very old farm dating back to the 1600s or even earlier. According to Joan Davies (Vol. 5), Isallt Farm was recorded as of importance in the 1600s; it was on one of the old routes from Chester to Holyhead and was where the horses were changed and refreshment taken. Little can be seen of the house from the road except, possibly, the tall chimney stacks.*

The crags up on the left are in places smothered by masses of Cotoneaster.



Pass the road on the right to Betws yn Rhos and the stony track on the left (a continuation of Trawscoed

Road – still featured on some Satnavs!). The old house of Llecha (Lechan on the 1880 map, Llechau on the tithe map is now on the right.)

On the right past Llecha, where a public footpath sign points down to Nant y Clyd, there are stone walls under a group of large trees. These are named on the tithe maps of Wales (approx. 1839) as Tan y Graig owned by John Foulkes Lloyd Esquire.



As the road descends more steeply, there is a detached rock pinnacle above the road on the left. According to Joan Davies' books this is known as *Craig y Botel* and may have been a site of justice or execution.

Isallt Road continues along the base of the crags, but we take the sharp right turn, steeply downhill.

We have now moved off the Carboniferous Limestone to the older rocks of the Ffernant Formation whose mudstones and sandstones tend to be impervious and result in wetter fields. We'll stay on the Ffernant Formation until returning to Isallt Road, near Tyddyn Elidir.

The tithe map shows a building, Llanerch, on the right hand corner of the wood here, but this is not shown on subsequent maps and definitive remains cannot be seen.

Continue between high banks and hedges on this narrow road down to a hairpin bend where a footpath is signed to the right, then the track up to Nant y Clyd Farm. The wooded stream here marks the parish boundary and tumbles over a little slab below the road and continues to join the Afon Dulas.

Climb steeply up away from the stream with high banks and hedges limiting the view, but eventually there are fine views back to Craig y Forwen.



Towards the top of the hill, a gate on the left has gas pipeline markers either side. These mark the twin gas pipeline, originally a Shell oil pipeline, that runs from Amlwch to the refinery at Stanlow.



Near the top of the hill, on the right, is a newish looking bungalow, Bryn Gwyn, is marked on the 1880 and tithe maps, though the current bungalow is clearly newer than these.



Confusingly the farm you can see at the top of the hill straight ahead is also called Pen y Cefn (this one has a spot height of 132.7m).

Our road now descends gradually, passing a farm and house on the left, with views across to Isallt Farm and the crags behind.

The road descends gently with views down to the left to the caravans at Plas Newydd and the Dulas Valley and out to sea. Before the road descends steeply turn right up a narrower lane. The modern OS map and the earlier maps show a well at the right hand corner.



The road bends right and dips down to the stream and parish boundary where you re-enter Llysfaen Parish.

Climb steadily up between banks and hedges to reach, after that final steep bit, Isallt Road where you turn left and follow it back to the terminus.

Climb steadily between high banks with fine old trees to either side; in late summer the road is covered with acorns.

The stony track off to the left heads to Cefn Castell shown on tithe map and 1880 map, both [house](#) and [outbuildings](#), with a patch of woodland beyond. The road continues to climb steadily until there's a track off to the left with house (Pen y Bryniau) and communications mast.

Next on the right is Pen y Cefn Uchaf, with stables, which the detailed map shows is at spot height of 132.3m, but does it look higher or lower than the Pen y Cefn on top of the next hill?

After Pen y Cefn the road descends to a crossroads where we turn right.