

**Name:** RoadWalk 3 Pen y Cefn  
**Route:** Dolwen 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:** 4.8km (3 miles)  
**Total ascent** 134m (438 ft.)  
**Time:** 1 hour 25 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. After prolonged wet weather the back road turning left off Dolwen Road may locally be covered in water to depth of a few inches, but is quite passable in walking boots (though trainers are not recommended)

#### **Description**

With your back to the bus shelter head half right along Dolwen Road, with the Terminus Field on your left and the house of Bryn Tirion (currently being renovated, extended) on the right. Follow Dolwen Road westwards passing houses on both sides of the road until the road dips slightly, then more steeply at a left hand bend.

On the opposite corner is a small abandoned quarry containing the sixteenth century farmhouse of Bryniau Cochion.



*It has been suggested that the "red" (Coch) reference is to blood and refers to an ancient*

*battle site in the fields below. It is more likely that it is based on the red colour of the rocks exposed at the bottom of the quarry face (the Ffernant Formation or "Basement Beds" which lie under the Carboniferous Limestone).*

Now head steeply downhill between high banks and hedges. On the right are stables, where the signed public footpath appears to go through one of the stable buildings!

There are fine old trees each side of the road, then on the left, about halfway down the hill, is a new agricultural building.

*At the bottom of the hill, as the road levels out, the fields either side are often wet (the detailed map shows "Issues" which develop into streams; one heading west to join the stream through Fairy Glen in Old Colwyn, and the other east to join the Afon Dulas. The streams mark the Llysfyaen Parish Boundary, and there is a road sign for Llysfyaen.*



*There is a marked public right of way off to the left just before the first house (Bryn Morfydd), but I have never been able to follow it successfully.*

Climb up passing Bryn Morfydd and the cottages; next on the left is a compound associated with an oil or gas pipeline.

*The pipeline, or rather the twin 36 inch pipelines, were constructed for Shell to take oil from large incoming tankers to their refinery at Stanlow. The largest VLCCs (very large crude carriers) would have had difficulty negotiating the relatively shallow waters and strong tides of*

*Liverpool Bay. Shell built an unloading terminal at [Amlwch](#) and the cross-country pipeline in 1974, but it was decommissioned in 1990. It has since been converted to gas.*

It's a steady slog uphill, but as you reach the top there is a track on the right down to the early seventeenth century [Pendared Farm](#).

The farm is best seen from across the valley on the Llysfaen West Walk, but there are now good views north to Llysfaen and out to the sea at



Rhos on Sea.



Following a gentle descent, with wide grass verges and ditches, as the road bends slightly left you can look across right to see the solar



farm at Teyrdan Farm, the other side of Dolwen Road (B5383).

Turn left at the first junction and take the narrow road heading east past the farm complex of [Twnan Uchaf](#) on the right (again the signed footpath doesn't seem to exist on the ground).

*Just by the footpath sign is a marker for the gas pipeline seen further back down Dolwen Road.*



Go past the farm access track and the largely silted up pond on the right and continue through open countryside. Buzzards are often seen circling and calling overhead.

The road is narrow, sometimes with grass down the middle, but carries very little traffic. There are high banks and hedges either side, with views south to the Dolwen Valley and the hills behind Betws yn Rhos as you climb up and down.



Just past Pen y Cefn you can look ahead to see the other Pen y Cefn on top of the next hill, beyond the junction, with the limestone hills behind Rhyd y Foel beyond.



Walk downhill now with wide wooded verges on the right, to a crossroads. Here you turn left (joining RoadWalk 2) and head downhill to cross a stream (where you re-enter the parish), then up to join Isallt Road. Turn left at the junction and follow the road back to the terminus.

*Primroses are seen in the spring and honeysuckle in the hedges in the summer.*

The road makes a steeper descent past the track to [Ffernant](#). At the bottom of the dip the marshy ground is where a stream from the left crosses under the road to go down Ffernant Dingle to reach the Afon Dulas.

*The dingle is a site of a [geological importance](#), the outcrop of the Ffernant Formation where it lies on top of the Silurian slates which form the hills to the south behind Betws yn Rhos. Footpath signs point left and right, but the paths are public rights of way, not visible on the ground.*

The road climbs steeply between high banks, passing the house of Bryn Iechyd on the left and then, at the top of the hill, the old farm of Pen y cefn, with newly built Cefn Sadlar and a new [log cabin](#).