

Name: RoadWalk 6 A547 Clobryn Rd
Route: Ffordd y Llan, Berth y Glyd, Highlands Road, Abergele Road, Clobryn Road, Pentregwyddel Road.
Start and finish: St. Cynfran's Church
OS Grid Ref: SH 893 775

Parking: room for a few cars; do not obstruct the bus turning, or use the Marian Nature Reserve car park off Bron y Llan Rd.

By bus: Arriva 13, 14 or 15

Distance: 3.9km (2.5 miles)

Total ascent 141m (463 ft.)

Time: 1 hour 13 minutes

Grade: Moderate; fairly steep hills up and down

Summary: A walk around the northern part of the village.

Risks: Most of the roads have pavements (parts of Ffordd y Llan, Clobryn and Pentregwyddel Roads are exceptions; beware speeding traffic on these).

Description:

The route starts with RoadWalk 1 and finishes with RoadWalk 4, but full descriptions are given below.

From the church gate move uphill with the traffic island off to the left, and turn right along Ffordd y Llan; whilst Pentregwyddel Road heads off downhill.

Just past the churchyard, but before the first house on the right there is a small garage-type building; constructed in the 1880s it used to house the Llysfaen Victorian horse-drawn hearse until the 1960s when it appears to have been sold.



On the opposite side of the road, behind a high wall, is the old primary school (built 1870-71, closed 1992 when the new school opened), now converted to a house. Go past this and houses on the right to reach the entrance to the Semaphore Lodge (originally Lodge Farm) with its twin-roofed structure

apparently mirroring that of the church. Access to the caravan site also forks off here.



Carry on along Ffordd y Llan, taking care of traffic as there is no footpath. Once past the Semaphore, all the houses are on the left of the road; to the right, over the wall, are fields stretching down to the lip of the quarry and beyond these sea views north to Liverpool Bay windfarms and oil platforms.

The first-developed offshore windfarms at North Hoyle (2003) and Rhyl Flats (2009) are now dwarfed by the 160 wind turbines of Gwynt y Mor, some 15km offshore. Electricity generated is transferred by four 20km cables to the coast, then by 11km onshore cables to the substation at Bodelwyddan.

The Liverpool Bay Oil and Gas Development Program is centred on the Douglas Platform, 24km offshore, sitting on top of the Douglas oil and gas field discovered in 1990. Llysfaen residents may have seen the flames and black smoke from the test flaring on the discovery well.

This was the first offshore oil found west of the UK (although oil seeps had been known for decades near Formby in Lancashire, and Darcy Exploration discovered the Formby Oilfield in 1939; it shut down in 1965 having produced over 76 000 barrels). The giant Morecambe Bay gas field north of here – and occasionally visible from Mynydd Marian – was discovered in 1974.

The Douglas platform is the centre of operations and processes oil and gas from Douglas and Lennox fields, and gas from Hamilton, Hamilton North and Lennox. Oil is transferred via a 20km pipeline to an offshore storage installation before being loaded

into tankers for distribution. Gas is part-processed on Douglas, then transferred in a 34km pipeline to the Point of Ayr gas terminal.

Most of the houses line the road, but higher up on the Marian are those of Mount Pleasant terrace and the old farm of Pant-y-cwrw (shown on the 1839 tithe map). Shortly after the track up to Pant-y-cwrw the road widens and there are footpaths on both sides (the seaward one is easier for pushchairs).

Where Tan y Graig Road forks back on the left, Ffordd y Llan changes to Berth y Glyd and steepens; there are now fields to both sides.

Just past Peulwys Lane on the left is the latest extension of the Peulwys Estate, Llys Cynfran, and then on the right the single row of 1930s houses of Berth y Glyd, backing onto the quarry. At the bottom of Berth y Glyd, opposite Llysfaen Road, a closed footpath heads right along the line of the old east-west turnpike road shown on the 1880 map. At this time there was just a footpath along the course of the present-day Highlands Road, but by the 1920s the road had been constructed. Descending Highlands Road past the 1960s development of the Highlands Estate you reach Abergele Road (A547), the main coastal route until this section of the A55 expressway was built in 1984.

Cross the road where there is a newer phase of cliff top housing development over a high wall. Turn right at the junction; there are pavements on both sides although the seaward side gives better views.

Walking down the road, at first you have woodland and pasture land below, but soon come to the sharp drop into the massive quarry, with the main railway line and expressway beyond. Over to the left you may be able to make out the eastern portal of the railway tunnel as it bores under Penmaenhead. The pavement here is right over the edge of the quarry; the road was widened in the 1930s with a massive [viaduct](#) constructed; the balustrade

forming the wall on your left indicates the location of the viaduct, seen here from the coastal cycle track below.



Once past the quarry the noise diminishes and woodland is again below you on the left.

Cross the A547 to the large lay-by and then follow Clobryn Road uphill.

The narrow track from the lay-by goes to the fishing pool (an old quarry pool which acted as a reservoir – see OS maps) currently licensed to [Llanddulas Angling Club](#).

At the first sharp left-hand bend on Clobryn Road look out for spring flowers on the grassy bank (primroses and orchids are there in abundance).

There is no pavement on Clobryn Road until shortly before the junction with Pentregwyddel Road, so take care!

Climb steadily up the hill, with fields on the right and woodland and a narrow paddock on the left (which hides the Llysfaen Quarry just beyond). *The gate into the field on the right would have been where Clobryn Cottage used to be.*

A pavement now appears on the left, gradually widening as you go uphill. *Where the road bends right there is the [MWT civil engineering yard](#) (known for many years as the Triact Yard) on the left and you can look up right to see the three terraces on Pentregwyddel Road and the newer houses straddling Trem y Don.*



At the far end of the grassy area on the left, the house Ty Capel is on the site of the old Moriah Wesleyan Methodist [Chapel](#).



At the crossroads Trem y Don heads steeply uphill with the newer houses each side. Turn right up Pentregwyddel Road as it climbs passing Ogwen Terrace, Ty'n-y-maes and Maes-y-fron on the left and open fields on the right. At the end of the terraces, just before the house Ty Coch on the left is a stepped path leading up to Parc Ffynnon. *Ty Coch is shown on the 1880 map, but at this stage there were open fields below; Raynes Quarry did not then exist, although the beginnings are shown on the 1900 map.*

The road continues to climb passing Cynfran Road on the left, with scattered houses and fields on the right.

A few metres past the house Cartref, but on the other side of the road, is a briar patch just over the fence in the rectory field, which is the site of an old well (as shown on old OS maps).

Just before the church and Village Hall as the road swings left, the house Preswylfa, next to the churchyard wall, appears to have been built over the pathway to [Ffynnon Cynfran](#) shown on older OS maps. Access to the well is now difficult (it's on private land), but [photos](#) have appeared on the web.

We have now returned to our starting point at [St. Cynfran's Church](#).