

WALK 17

FOEL GOCH AND BRYN MAWR

DESCRIPTION A quite challenging walk of just over 5 miles with terrain varying from cultivated fields to unimproved lowland including a short section of forestry.

START Lay-By close to Bwlch y Garreg (GR935798)

DIRECTIONS From Llanidloes take the A470 south for about 3.5 miles and look out for the 400-yard stretch of woodland on your right and the stream on your left. Towards the end of the woodland, on a significant right hand bend, turn **LEFT** along a minor road, passing the lane to Bwlch y Garreg farm on your left almost immediately and continue for a further 400 yards or so until you see the wicket gate at the start of your walk on your **RIGHT**. There is limited parking space at various points where the road widens.

1 Go through the gate and walk up the slope over the rough terrain keeping the fence to your right and a ditch to your left until you reach the second wicket gate. *If you look ahead up the hill at this point, you may see your next gate 250 yards ahead of you, in the fence to your right.* Bear diagonally **LEFT** up the hill for some 200 yards then **RIGHT** towards the gate. Go **AHEAD** through the gate and keep the fence to your right as you go to and through the next gate, bearing **LEFT** along the track through the trees. As you leave the trees, follow the track over the open field to the next gate and then bear diagonally **LEFT** across the next field for about 250 yards to the crest of the ridge. At this point, turn **LEFT** towards the gate near the corner of the forest and, after going through the gate, follow the forest fence to where it bends **RIGHT** and, after a further 150 yards, go through the gate into the forest. Follow the track down through the trees and bear **LEFT** at the bottom to the wicket gate in the fence.

2 Leaving the forest, bear slightly **RIGHT** down to the corner of the field and go **AHEAD** through the gate onto a track. After about 100 yards, go through the field gate on your **RIGHT**, then bear diagonally **LEFT** to the far fence, turning **LEFT** along the fence and through the wicket gate in the corner. From the gate, bear right around the shoulder of the hill, keeping about 25 yards above the unimproved wetland below you on your right, past a Tir Gofal marker on your right, for about 600 yards. As the valley flattens ahead of you, look for the area of forestry over to your left with a wicket gate about 200 yards in from the right hand corner. *You cannot walk directly to the gate because of deep stream crossing in front of it.* Instead aim for the field gate in the fence about 150 yards to the **RIGHT** of the plantation, indicated by the marker post,

until you cross the bridge over the stream, then turn LEFT along the far bank of the stream to the wicket gate. Go through the gate into the plantation and, keeping the fence to your right, make your way around and up through the trees until you reach a more substantial track and bridleway junction. *(To avoid the quite difficult conditions underfoot in the trees, the landowner has permitted you to cross the bridge and then go through the gate immediately AHEAD of you into the field, after which you turn LEFT along the fence outside the plantation and continue over a further bridge, up the field until you meet the bridleway coming into the plantation from your right at the above junction).* Continue AHEAD along the track to where it passes through a gate onto a tarmac surfaced road that meanders down the hill to the road junction on the valley floor.

3 Pass 2 possible right turns and, after about 200 yards, look out for and walk along a lane on your RIGHT marked by a bridleway marker on the telegraph pole at the entrance. *(Those walkers feeling tired at this point may save themselves a climb and about 0.75 mile by simply continuing along the road back to their vehicle)* Go through the farm gate and through the buildings, passing to the left of the house.

Exit the farm through a further gate and follow the track through 2 more gates to its junction with a more substantial track by a cattle grid. Turn LEFT along the track and, keeping the fence to your right follow it on through open fields and through a sheep enclosure and past a small, disused quarry. On passing the quarry go through the gate into the field and bear diagonally LEFT to the bottom corner of the field exiting through the gate in the RIGHT hand fence. Keeping the fence to your left, you will pass almost immediately a walled Quaker burial ground dating from the 18th century. Go through a further 2 fields until you come to 2 gates side by side. Go through the RIGHT hand gate and then follow the track on down the hill until you reach the tarmac road below and turn LEFT to return to your vehicle.