



TALYBONT WOODS / CORS FOCHNO LOOP



This walk can be easily extended to visit Borth and the sea or shortened to end in Taliesin.

This walk starts from Talybont on the 'Borth to Devil's Bridge' trail, joins the 'Wales Coast Path' and then loops back to Talybont through the woods. If using the bus, the walk is a bit more straightforward and less strenuous if you start at Talybont and finish in Taliesin (there are regular buses between the villages).



WALK DETAILS

Length:

- 10 km (approx. 6 ½ miles)
- 14 km (approx. 9 miles) if extending to visit Borth and the sea.
- Just over 9 km (approx. 8 ½ miles) if diverting to Taliesin at the end.

Time: Up to four hours for shorter two routes- with plenty of time to enjoy.

Terrain: mostly footpaths with short distances on very small roads. Often rough and muddy and sometimes boggy underfoot (boots better than trainers), sometimes steep. (Some stiles are a bit wobbly)

Grade: Moderate

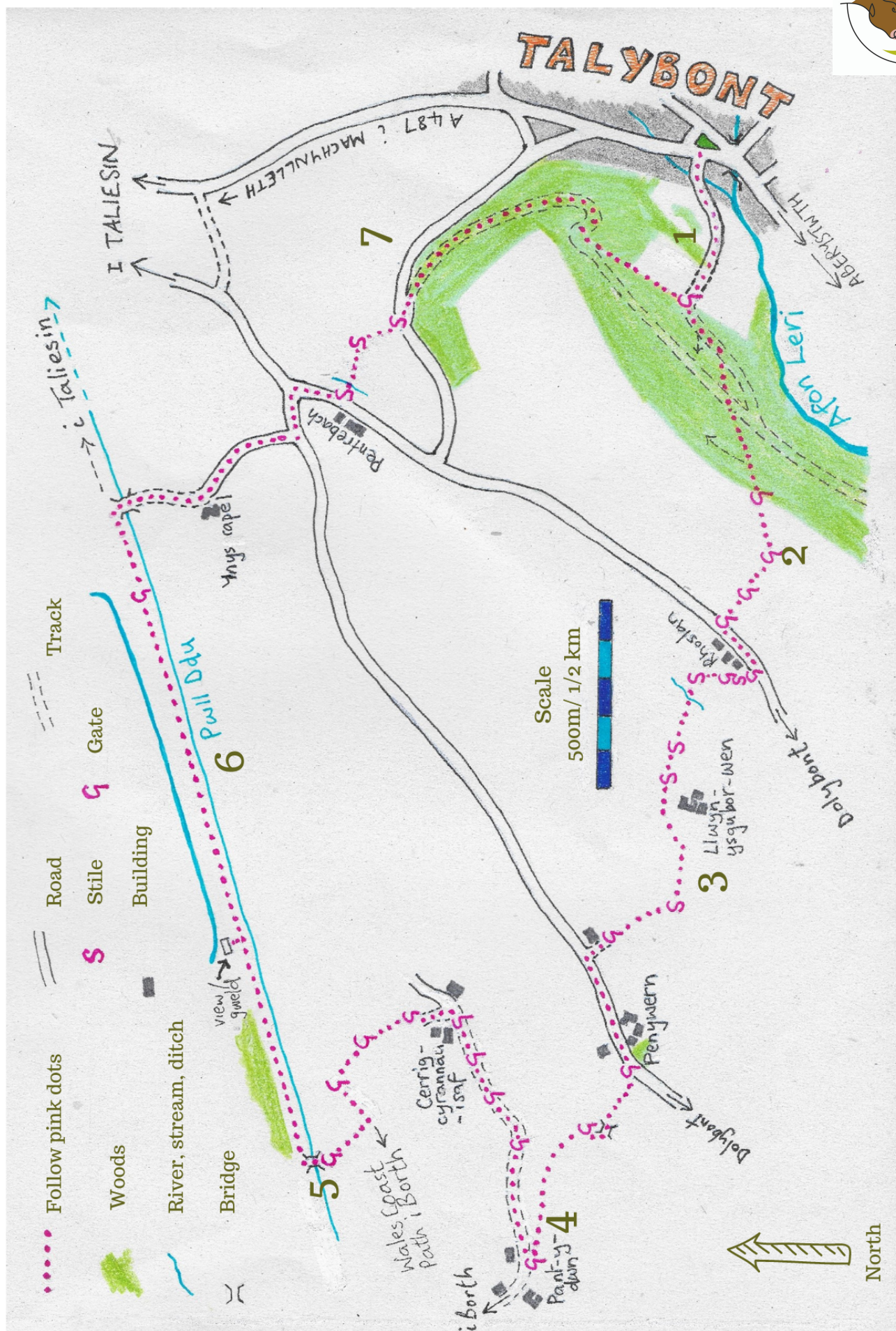
Signage: mostly OK but on this route although you need to know which direction to head off on the right of way across fields as the paths are often not clear on the ground. Use the instructions and the sketch map. The walk crosses between two O.S. maps: Outdoor Leisure 213 (Aberystwyth and Cwm Rheidol) AND Outdoor Leisure 23 (Cadair Idris and Llyn Tegid)

Public Transport: regular buses (X28 and T2) from Aberystwyth and from Machynlleth.

Livestock: You may come across cattle in the fields. Beef bulls (if placid) are allowed on rights of way if with cows.

Cors Fochno, part of the Dyfi National Nature Reserve, is a very special lowland raised bog habitat. The peat (water-logged partially decayed vegetation) has built up over thousands of years and is 8m deep in places. The bog is home to a wealth of wildlife including rare insects such as the rosy marsh moth and the bog bush-cricket. Look out for the beautiful yellow spikes of bog asphodel and rub the bog myrtle leaves for their strong and pleasant smell. Your path takes you beside one of the old drainage ditches that has been blocked as part of the restoration work. As well as the area's importance for biodiversity the peat is important carbon store as it contains thousands of years plant growth that is not returning it's carbon to the atmosphere as carbon-dioxide.

TALYBONT LOOP



SECTION 1 - THE GREEN, TALYBONT AND UP THROUGH COED ALLT Y CRIB

If arriving by bus, start at The Green, Talybont (grid ref: SN654891) If arriving by car, park around The Green if there is space - or nearby.

From The Green cross onto the North side of the main road and climb gradually for ½ km up a small road until it becomes track and enters the woods. On your left as you leave the village you look down on the site of one of the old Leri Woollen Mills where tweed for suit making was produced. You can see the weir in the river which increased the head of water to the waterwheel that (along with the workers) powered the looms and spinning machinery.



In the woods bear left along the track. You will be following 'Borth to Devil's Bridge' trail signs. Ignore the first path going off to the right (120m along). After ¼ km, just before the track starts to go downhill, take the right fork at the 'Borth to Devil's Bridge' signpost. Your path climbs gently and after a very short distance you cross a forestry track and keep going uphill on the 'Borth to Devil's Bridge' trail.



There is a pleasant slightly uphill path for ¼ km and then you come to the edge of the woods.



SECTION 2- DESCEND FROM WOODS TO RHOSLAN (SN641891)

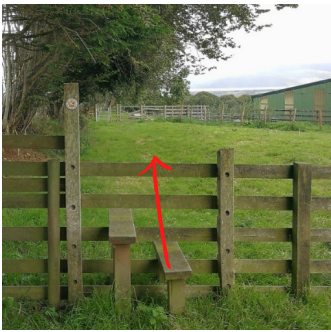


Once out of the woods, bear left and walk along the hedge line through three fields (three gates) in a roughly straight line downhill in the direction of Borth (West). The last gate takes you onto a small road.



SECTION 3 - RHOSLAN TO PEN-Y-WERN (SN632893)

Once on the road turn left, walk for 150m, past Rhoslan and look for a gate and footpath sign on the right. Go in here, cross a stile and go through another gate all in roughly a straight line (North) before coming to a stile on your left. From here you change direction and head across the middle of three fields without a clear path crossing a small, boggy stream soon after setting out.



FROM HERE FINDING THE RIGHT DIRECTION ACROSS THE FIELDS IS IMPORTANT - you can just see the next stile as you cross into each field (with reasonable long-sight).



Cross a stile into the second field and head across to the telegraph pole right of the buildings. It is boggy so pick your way. There is a little bridge at the next stile. Head slightly left, up to the field corner.



Here join an outgrown old green lane heading West for about 100m where you see a stile into a field. The right of way goes diagonally across this field towards a bungalow which you can just see. Once there go through the gate and down a short drive to meet a small road. Walk along the road for ½ km past the attractive farm buildings of Penywern and 30m beyond on the right there is a gate and right of way sign.

SECTION 4 - PENYWERN TO PANT-Y-DWN (SN624895)



After entering the field, walk beside a fence for less than 100m then bear right slightly and go along the left side of a double ditch /field boundary (towards Borth). After 200m you cross a little bridge and turn right to a small gate. There are great views from here over Cors Fochno peat bog and the Dyfi estuary.



The right of way skirts the right edge of the field, descending quite steeply then bears left and runs along the bottom of the field on a sunken grassy track. You can see the telegraph pole to aim for from the top.

Carry on along the grassy track beside the hedge. in the same direction (West) for ¼ km through another field until you get to a gate into the farmyard of Pant-y-dwn. In summer and autumn, look out for crab apple and sloes in this fine hedge.



SECTION 5 - PANT-Y-DWN TO PWLL DDU (DITCH) AND THE WALES COAST PATH.



On reaching Pant-y-dwn turn sharply right almost back on yourself and walk along a fairly level track through four fields to Cerrig-cyrannau-isaf. Go through the farmyard and out onto a small road. Immediately turn left – this is well signed. Pass a horse arena on your left, go over the stream and through a gate. Walk on the left edge of two fields beside a stream $\frac{1}{4}$ km towards a small woods.



At the third gate turn left and after 100m you will meet the Wales Coast Path.



At the gate where you join the Wales Coast Path, turn right and walk 200m to the gate and bridge over Pwll Ddu, the ditch running beside the edge of Cors Fochno where you turn right.

SECTION 6 - PWLL DDU BESIDE CORS FOCHNO PEAT BOG THEN BACK TO PENTREBACH (SN647901)

Cross the bridge and turn right . Follow the path along the ditch. After ½ km look out for a short boardwalk off to the left which takes you to a good view point with a bench. After about 2km and having gone through gates you will see the right turn where the right of way crosses the ditch on a track. Take this and head up to Ynyscapel farm. At this point you could choose to carry on along the ditch to Taliesin - if you don't mind starting and finishing at different points (and using the bus to link up perhaps). Less climbing to return to the start.



After ¼ km you will see Ynyscapel on your right, the track becomes a road and you keep going South to meet a T-junction with a small road. Go left here for 150m along the road then right for the same distance and you will at a small row of cottages called Pentrebach



SECTION 7 - PENTREBACH RETURN VIA COED ALLT Y CRIB, TALYBONT.



As you get to Pentrebach you will see a stile and public footpath sign. Go down here, cross a small stream, walk along right of a row of oaks and then cross a stile into a sloping field.



Cross a stile and bear right going fairly steeply uphill for 150m (heading to the left of the house) where you cross another stile onto the small road that runs along the bottom of the woods. You will see a wide track entrance to the woods - take this track which goes gradually uphill into the woods for about $\frac{1}{2}$ km



When you get near the top of the woods the path bends round to the right and opens out. Turn left here and go quite steeply down a grassy path which returns you to the place where you first entered the wood at the beginning of this walk. You will recognise the return down the track and small road to Talybont green.

Did you enjoy this walk? Share your photos with us on Facebook @DolauDyfi