

Leg 2 Fforest Fawr

From A4067 at col to Storey Arms at col A470

Summary of main landscape features/key words

Steep grassy ascent-trig on plateau-runnable trod-metalled track- stile by multiple fence meetings/sheepfold- boggy trod-stone wall by col-boggy ascent with direct alternative to trig-or cairn-trig. Steep grassy descent-drainage channels in tussocky terrain-stile-river-quad bike sized track in ascent-broad summit ridge-gently descending grassy trods-worn peat type hags and bogs at col-stay above fence line-stile-trig-stile-cairn-bog-bog-bog-small ponds/knoll-steep ascent-summit cairn-steep descent-boggy plateau-grassy descent-stream for water-gate in fence-road

Measurements relate to approximate map distance not ascent or descent

Detail

Cross the road & go steep up a bank to the stile. If no road support, here is heather to hide supplies in. You have to grasp the split infinitive here and boldly ascend, steeply, for 1.5k ESE. It is steep, then more of a plateau of ground, then very steep. Tussocky then grassy when steep. Some faint trods. Rocky outcrop halfway up last steep section. Finish right of a longer rocky outcrop on summit plateau of Fan Gihirych at trig (725m Summit 6).

1km E runnable. intermittently boggy, gentle descent to metaled forest/farm track. 3/4k ENE undulating to fence corners with sheepfold. This is just south of a what the military here call a 'heart shaped' woodland block as a feature aid. Cross the stile for ½ km E over boggy ground bearing S to cross Bwlch y Duwynt (col) by way of a track by the stone wall. Go 1k ESE over boggy ground which rises gradually. Here, decide to go right over faint trods through low peat hags 1/2k (can be difficult to find trod) to gain summit trig direct or stay on path via larger peat hags to gain large cairn after another ¼k+ ESE then <1/2k S runnable grassy trods to trig at Fan Nedd (663m Summit 7).

Head about 150-200m NE and then down for 1k E via man made drainage channels and grassy descents to a stile where the road meets the bridleway. If you don't find the drainage channels and grassy descents, you will find yourself slowed down in tussock grass and then sharp rush plants, which signify boggy ground.

Head 1k ESE crossing Afon Llia (last decent water this leg) gaining obvious quad bike sized track to broad summit at Fan Llia (632m Summit 8). Don't veer right to cairn but you can veer left

to gain the summit over less runnable ground if you want to try a short cut. A definite option if attempting E-W.

Head 1.5+k generally N over gently descending ground, over Fan Dringarth, sometimes muddy, rising gently after 1k before gaining a trod (look for small rock) to the right. 3/4k NNE to col where it becomes a quagmire of small peat hags and podzolic harder ground interspersed with muddy peat.

Rise gently for almost 2k generally NE picking your best trod between the fence line and the Beacons Way. Stay left of the broad summit to avoid gaining too much height, staying away from the fence if you can where the cattle have made it very muddy indeed. Eventually you will inevitably be drawn into this quagmire as you approach the nature reserve of CCG Craig Cerrig-gleisiad. You will arrive at a fence corner with gate and stile on left (not the one facing you which would take you onto the top of the crag and off route)

Cross stile/gate, leave your rucksack here if self supporting, cross a small muddy pool and head 1k N, gently ascending. Stay to left of rocky track on a grassy trod as soon as you can and rise steeply at the end after 700m, soon after being forced onto the rocky track again, to gain the trig at Fan Frynych (629m Summit 9).

Head 1+k S back to the stile and 400m S to the next summit... back to the stile, pick up your rucksack and head straight up to the small cairn (629m Rhos Dringarth/ CCG Summit 10) keeping the steep sandstone crag to your left. This is easily done if you stay 2m W of the fence, continuing towards the summit as the fence changes direction away from you along the crag edge. Use the fence line you have been running along to guide you directly to the small cairn at the summit 100m S from the fence corner. 'Wander potential' over the next section in clag or whiteout.

You are now gently descending over very boggy ground to the col (555m) 1.5+k SSE. 330m after ascending gently you will see small ponds on your left by a knoll. This is the point at which you want to head S of ½k steeply to gain the cairn at Fan Fawr (734m Summit 11).

The trig is not to be taken in, no need.

From Fan Fawr, for 1 ¾k NE it is runnable, then steep, boggy for a short section and runnable to finish the leg over a gate at Storey Arms.

Pick up water (and supplies if self supporting) from the stream about 300m before the gate.

Otherwise, meet your gang or time it to get supplies off Denise at the green burger van. Now the challenge is really under way.

PCD 25/10/20CCG