Llwybr Cadfan– Day 7

Porthmadog to Cricieth



The building of the Cob caused the estuary to change and scour out a deep natural harbour (Porthmadog). In 1825 wharves were built and by 1873 over 116,000 tons of slate was being exported through Porthmadog in over a thousand ships. Find out more

▣ Stamp Locations: St Cyngar, Borth y Gest. St Cynhaearn, Ynyscynhaearn.

Directions:

1. Starting from The Australia Pub, turn left and walk towards the Shell petrol station (100m). Cross the road just after the petrol station and walk along the harbour front until you reach a parking area on the harbour side (250m). Here, walk to the right of the tall building that sits on its own between the harbour and row of houses. Follow this lane as it leads behind the buildings and past the old quarry for about 550 metres.

2. At the lane end, take the footpath leading up and to the right, signposted for the Coast Path (follow the Coast path signs from now until point 5.). This path takes you to Borth y Gest (150m). It leads out into a housing estate, follow down the central lane until you spot the footpath sign leading down with some railings. Then you can choose to either walk along the beach or the walkway along the top, to reach the car park at the far side of the cove.

3. At the car park, walk between the two small rows of houses on the lane. The lane bends around to the estuary and a large footpath leads off to the left, staying parallel to the water.
▣ Walk along this path. (The church is to the right here). It first leads along in front of the houses, keep right at the first junction, then left as the path runs this time behind a set of houses. Keep on the main path for 470m, keeping straight at the footpath junction.



4. Above 'Rose Cottage' turn right on the driveway, then left to continue on the footpath. At the next path junction (200m) turn down left towards Samson's Bay and the golf course. After exploring the bay, head back to Rose Cottage (there is also an adventurous path that leads back up from Samson's Bay for those up for some exploring).

5. Turn left when you come out to the Rose Cottage track/drive, this will lead you into a caravan site. Keep right on this track until you reach the red dog poo bin, then turn left and walk the tarmac track keeping the pond and play area to your right. Turn right to stay next to the pond and follow the road up until you

spot a footpath sign straight ahead, leading you off the road. Take this and follow the footpath signs through the fields and woodland. At the end of this is a stone and metal kissing gate onto the main road.

6. Cross the road and beside the Llama Farm gates is a stone stile. Cross this stile and keep the fence on your left, (you may find horses here). Continue (now on a track) until you reach a high metal gate across the track. Go through this and over a small stream in the track, then turn right and following the path gently uphill through open fields until you reach a farm and footpath gate with footpath markers.



7. Once through the gate, keep the wall to your right (passing a tree). Continue between the walls to a makeshift stone beach with stunning views. At the end of the path is a footpath gate, go through this and again keep the wall to your right. Once past the gate opening in the wall keep close next to the wall on the smaller path to reach a corner where four fields meet. Go through the footpath gate and keep the wall to your left. Continue past the back of a cottage and then through the gate onto a track.

8. Follow the track passing the entrance to another house. Continue down the track and through a gate to reach the main road. Turn left on the road and walk a short distance (towards the bridge), cross the road when you are opposite to the bus stop and continue walking towards the bridge. Turn right on the gravel track going under the bridge, signed for Wern. Once through the bridge turn left and walk uphill on a gravel track between houses.

9. The track becomes a path and follows a wall to the right through woodland before coming to a large white stone bungalow. Keep along the back of the bungalow to the drive/gate and onto a gravel lane. Turn left on the lane and continue through a gate and into Pentrefelin, coming out onto the main road beside the War Memorial.

10. Turn right on the road and keep a look out on the opposite side of the road for a footpath sign and large white sign to St Cynhaearn’s Church. When safe cross the road and follow the signs for the church along the lane and through two gates to reach the church.



Built in 1832, this small Grade II* church has remained relatively intact over the years, and retains its historic interior. Situated upon what was once an island on the now drained Llyn Ystymllyn, the church is now maintained by the Friends of Friendless Churches. Notable graves are that of James Spooner, the surveyor who built the Ffestiniog Railway, John Ystumllyn, also known as Jack Du (Jack Black), David Owen a local blind harpist and composer as well as boatbuilders and sailors. Find out more

11. From the church go back through the first gate and then turn left through a footpath gate into a field (signposted). Keep the wall to your left to reach the corner, then continue along the wall, passing the opening and continuing to follow the wall. You'll spot ahead an opening without a gate. Follow the grassy path through this, go slightly right around a mound and then head straight through the field and between two stony mounds on the top of a small slope. From between these mounds you should be able to look ahead and spot the gates leading onto a road. Follow the grassy path to the gates.

12. When on the road, turn left along the road and walk to the entrance signed for Ystumllyn. Walk down this track and the slightly right of the large house to a cattle grid. Follow the track through the footpath gate and up to the farm. At the farm go between the two large barns and keep to the path on the other side of them, keeping the wall and fence on the left to reach the edge of the field and two gates. Take the gate on the left into the field ahead and follow the grassy path rightwards along the boundary until the path goes downhill and away from the fence-line, finishing at a footpath gate and the railway line. Turn right and follow the path as it runs parallel to the trainline to reach the crossing (now following Coast Path signs until Cricieth).

13. Cross here and continue until the path opens and gives the option to walk along the beach. Here you can either keep following the path and then turn left to walk along the promenade or you can walk along the beach.

14. When you reach the lifeboat station at the far end of the beach, head up the road (closest to the sea, 60m). At the right turning by the post-box, you can either continue along this road to reach the castle (100m) or turn right, continue over the railway line and slightly left to the main road and Cricieth High Street.



There is evidence that the area around Cricieth was settled during the Bronze Age, with chambered tombs and standing stones still present in the area. Other sites on the Llŷn Peninsula suggests that the area was colonised by a wave of Celtic settlers, who explored the Irish Sea, probably around the 4th century BC. Cricieth Castle was built by Llywelyn ab Iorwerth around 1230 and in the years afterwards was often used as a prison. The town developed into a popular Victorian seaside resort after 1868 and the construction of the Welsh Coast railways.