

2. PANT-Y-LLYN HILL AND THE GARTH (ROUTE KEEPING TO RIGHTS OF WAY)

A fine hill walk. Map: Explorer 188.

Walk A: The full circular: 2.1 to 2.9. 10 miles. 4 hours.**Walk B: From top to bottom: 2.4 to 2.9. 6 miles. 2 1/2 hours.** Arrange a lift or take a taxi to the top. Take the Brecon road, the B4520. It goes left at the top of the High Street, bends right, and passes the supermarket. Stay on it for 3 miles. (After a mile a turning left, to Tregaer and Erwood, leads to the Duhonw bridge at Dollynwydd - 2.2). Staying on the main road cross the Duhonw at a gorge, pass Llandewi'r Cwm church, and skirt Pant-y-llyn Hill climbing steadily. At the foot of a steep pitch (25%) known as Tumbledown Dick, turn left on the small road which ascends Pant-y-llyn, unfenced and very pretty. Just before the top a well defined track leads off left to the pool. Park here. **WALK B BEGINS.** Follow the track to the pool. On to 2.4.**Walk C: Lanes & The Garth: 2.1,2.2,2.8, 2.9. 5 miles. 2 hours.****Walk D: Garth Hill only: 2.1, 2.8, 2.9. 3.5 miles. 1 1/4 hours.****2.1 Builth Wells town -T junction****20 mins**The walk begins at Newry Road behind the Castle mound. Down the road. After a mile we reach the T junction at the back of Garth Hill. **(For Walk D turn and face Builth Wells and skip to 2.8)****2.2 T junction - River Duhonw****20 mins**

Turn right and continue along the road to Dollynwydd.

(For Walk C turn left and cross the Duhonw. Continue left 3/4 mile along the lane to Pwllgwyn Farm and skip to 2.7)**2.3 River Duhonw - Pant-y-llyn****60 mins**

There is a nice access to the hill if one were to turn left and cross the bridge. Unfortunately despite several paths leading to the pool, none are Rights of Way. To take one we must pick up the bridleway to the pool. So turn right and at the main road turn left. The next left is the lane which becomes the bridleway to the pool.

2.4 Pant-y-llyn Pool**linger awhile!**

The lake is on the north-west flank of the hill. A good spot is the cliff on its south shore. To the west is the great bulk of the Cambrian Mountains, the parish of Llanafan nestled in its foothills. A series of wild valleys takes the water from these hills to the Irfon. Because of the absence of a Right of Way across the middle of the hill our descent is by the way we came up..

2.5 Pant-y-llyn Pool – Hengwm Farm**30 mins**

Take the bridleway due north from the north-east corner of the pool. It swiftly descends to the north-west corner of the hill. There is a path following the field boundary right which connects with the path we want but it isn't a Right of Way. So continue down the bridleway through two fields and take the path right to Hengwm Farm.

2.6 Hengwm Farm -Pwllgwyn Farm**30mins**

Continue briefly down the farm drive and take the path on the right back onto the hill. The path follows the fence-line finally coming to a gate. Go through onto a broad track. It crosses a small ravine and joins the road at Pwllgwyn..

2.7 Pwllgwyn Farm - T junction**20 mins**

The path goes through the farmyard, crosses the hill beneath trees, and joins a green lane. Alternatively, stay on the road and go uphill to the crossroads of green and metalled lanes. Turn left on the sunken track, which serves also as a water-course, cross the Duhonw and take the lane uphill to the T junction at the back of Garth Hill.

2.8 T junction - The Garth**15 mins****(For a quick return to Builth Wells carry on down Newry Road.)** For the Garth, cross the stile on the right and follow the ridge. Pant-y-llyn slips behind and Aberedw Hill dominates the view. Its top is pimpled with Bronze Age burial mounds. Between the two hills are the wooded cliffs of Aberedw Rocks **(Walk 4)**. To the left the Wye points from Builth Wells towards the Cambrians around Llanafan**(Walk 6)**. As soon as the 'trig' point on top of the Garth comes into view notice bumps on the ground. We are entering the enclosure - which is what Garth means. This vantage point, where the hills and valleys converge and the Wye enters a strait, was probably a fortified settlement. See Builth Wells Castle mound controlling the ford where the bridge evolved. Across the bridge, beneath Cefn Dyrys, the "big house" of the district, is the spread of the Royal Welsh Showground. Far off, between Carneddau and Aberedw Hill, is Radnor Forest, the highest upland east of the Cambrians. To the right, popping out of it, The Whimble.**2.9 The Garth - Builth Wells Town****40 mins**

It looks tempting, if intrepid, to drop over the prow of the hill and take a field route into town but this is not a Right of Way. We must return to the T junction at the back of Garth Hill and turn right, returning to the start of the walk along Newry Road.