

Shortly, at a hairpin bend, a bridleway leaves the road to the right.

A tramway once led to Caenant here, it also led, via a bridge, across the road to an ore slide. Follow this track in a fine setting, fording the river then rising again towards the farm of Trawsant.

Before the farm, at a shelter belt, climb steps in the bank to a stile and climb to a corner then traverse the steep bank left above the farm buildings. Cross the stream with care and continue below a gorse bank in the bed of a now disused leat with fine views ahead to the coast.

At a crest beyond a stile leave the watercourse and take a higher line traversing the hillside. The incline is easy on this final climb of this walk and the fine views to Aberystwyth and Pendinas afforded are ample rewards for your efforts.

At the bwch cross the track heading north, do not enter the gateway but descend steeply at first to pick up a track that traverses down to the right. This path overlooks the village, the chimney and the start of this walk, not so far away now.

Ford a stream by a ruin and follow the track above another leat and behind another ruin that seems to be in a line with others in the field below

Ford another stream below a pond that has been dammed to gain the tarmac road and follow this left down past the chimney to the start point.

Spirit of the Miners Walks



© RD Owen

CIRCULAR WALK: CWMSYMLOG

Distance & time:	8.5K / 5¼ miles, 2¾ hrs.
Terrain:	A mixture of quiet country lanes, open fields, woodland paths, forestry roads and open moorland
Suitable for:	Moderately fit walkers, the climb through the oak woodland is steep but thankfully quite short
Grade:	This is a grade B walk graded according to the following criteria: A Strenuous: Ability to walk on rough terrain for up to 6 hours with a light rucksack B Moderate: Ability to walk on rough terrain for up to 4 hours with a light rucksack C Easy: Ability to walk on rough terrain for up to 2 hours with a light rucksack
Start & finish:	Cwmsymlog (SN 699 837), there is ample parking near the chimney
Refreshments:	None en route
Public Toilets:	None en route
Public transport:	Consult Aberystwyth Tourist Information Centre 01970 612125 or ring Traveline Cymru on 0870 608 2608.
Maps:	OS Explorer 213, Aberystwyth & Cwm Rheidol

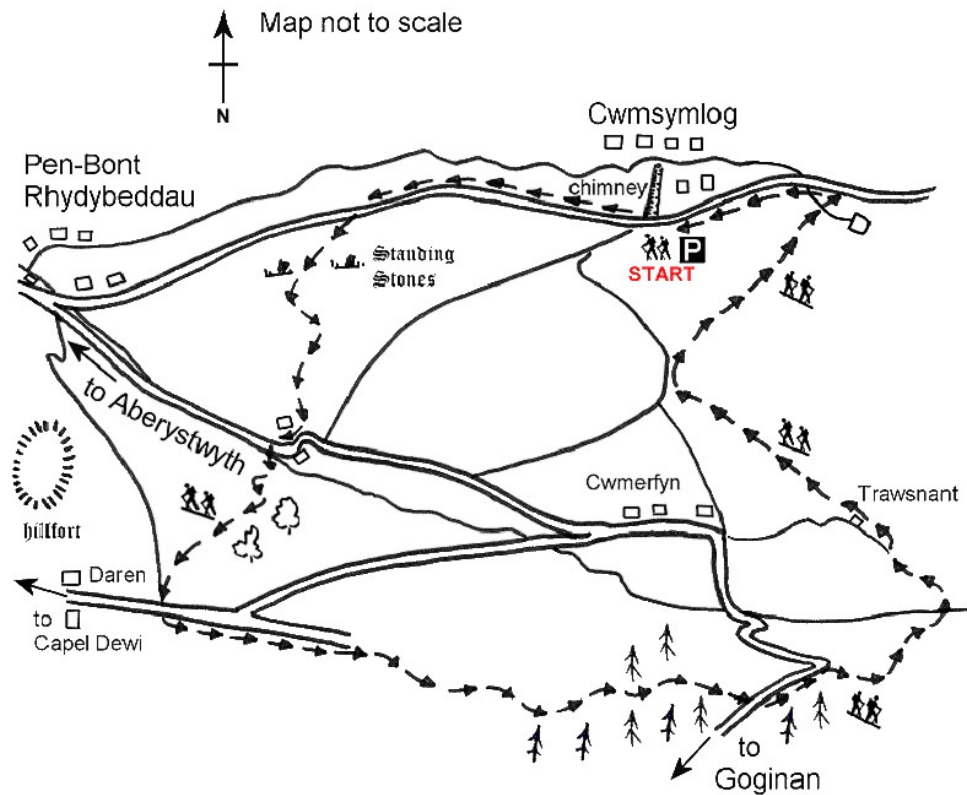
Published by the Ceredigion County Council Tourism Service,
Terrace Road, Aberystwyth SY23 2AG 01970 633063

For further information on holidays in Ceredigion contact the Aberystwyth Tourist Information Centre, Terrace Road, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, Wales SY23 2AG Tel: 01970 612125

Email: AberystwythTIC@Ceredigion.gov.uk



CEREDIGION



© Crown Copyright.. Ceredigion County Council, 100024419, 2007.

The tarmac surface of the single-track road leading to Cwmsymlog from Pen-Bont Rhydybeddau peters out beyond the prominent ruins of a tall chimney. There is ample parking in the vicinity of the chimney.

Walk back down the road past the fine building of Tŷ Canol farm, beyond the farm ignore a footpath sign leading off right over a stream into the forestry (on the other side of the stream amongst the trees, just past that path, the stone wheel shaft and spoil heaps of Gwaith yr Afon Mine can be distinguished) and continue down the road.

Just past the remains of a ruined house on your right, a footpath leads off to your left. Go through the gate and follow the path to the right, following an old leat.

Ahead is Darren, the scar of an open cast mine and a prominent hill fort stand out on the hill opposite. There is circumstantial evidence that this mine may well have been at work in the middle bronze age (1300BC). There are also fine views out to the coast at Clarach.

Above and below the path the two bronze age standing stones of Cerrig-yr-Wyn hint at the activities of man in this area thousands of years ago. Below the path is a mine, named after the stones.

Continue along the leat until you reach a gate, go through this and turn right to descend, alongside the boundary, to another gate.

Ahead, on the hillside opposite, a zigzag path can be seen. This is the route we are to follow.

Pass by a barn on your right and follow the track down to the road by the farm. Turn right, pass by the farm buildings, then go immediately left at a brideway sign to cross the river.

Go through a gate on the left and turn right immediately to begin the steep climb which zigs left then zags right to enter the woods.

Eventually the path emerges from the oak woods, crosses the stream in the dip then crosses fields with the hill fort of Darren to your right to reach the tarmac road.

Turn left along the road, ignore the right then the left junction and carry straight on climbing less steeply now. The tarmac road becomes a track, follow this straight on beside the fence into young conifers with fine views opening up on both sides.

Below to the right is Goginan. This, and the other two valleys visited on this walk, was the scene of great activity up to the turn of the century when mining in this area was in its heyday. Roman coins were found at Goginan but the site has unfortunately been levelled by bulldozers. The council and forestry roads merge and, when the trees are still young, the views get better as the route descends towards Cwmerfyn. Shortly, as the track levels out for a while, a track leaves the forestry road to the left and leads through a gate into the high pasture of the valley.

Contour round this 'multi use' track with the plantation on your immediate right until you reach the tarmac road at Bwlch Cwmerfyn. This area is riddled with mine workings shafts and adits. Here Brynpica and Pwllrhenaid mines are connected by winzes, underground shafts excavated downwards. Within the forestry to your right a shaft that descends the depth of the hillside has been capped with a metal grate.

Tracks lead off in all directions here, but our route follows the tarmac road that leads down towards the head of the valley above stunted oak and willow trees. Shafts on the hillside directly ahead have been fenced off, this is Caenant mine.