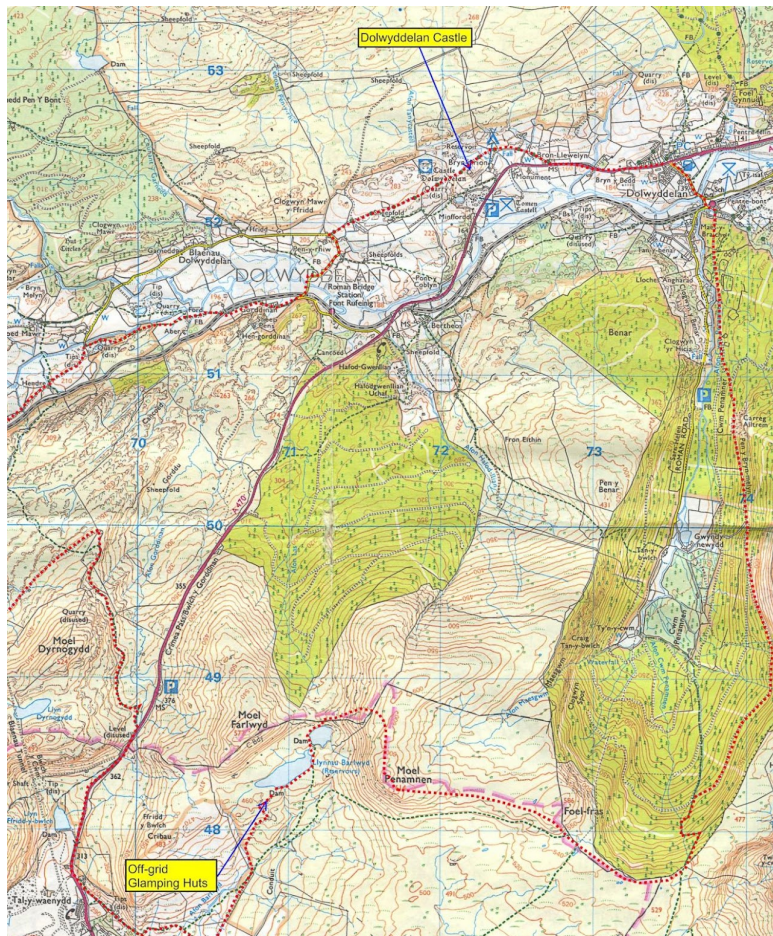


## Walk 3 – Moel Penamnen, Cwm Penamnen and Dolwyddelan - circular walk.

This guide is intended for experienced walkers who are comfortable with map and compass navigation and can handle crossing pathless terrain. As a result, fewer details are provided in this guide, and the reader will need to choose their own routes based on the map, their experience, and the weather. Moel Penamnen is an easily recognisable hill that overlooks all of the huts in the area. Its summit, standing at 614m (2014ft), offers stunning panoramic views.



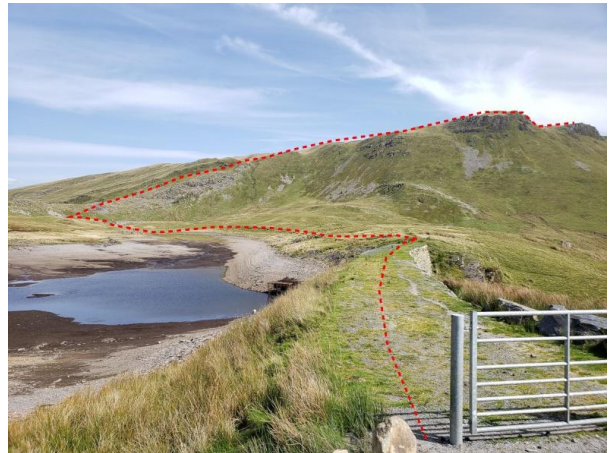
To reach Llyn Barlwyd Uchaf, start by walking up the access track from your hut towards the dam. Once you reach the gate, pass through it and cross the dam while keeping a safe distance from the edge. On the other side, look towards the left and you will see another dam which has a notch cut in the wall. Go to this dam and pass through the notch, and you will arrive at Llyn Barlwyd Uchaf. This was the first dam constructed here and is now abandoned. Turn left and continue walking around the lake until you reach the halfway point where you can ascend to a pass between hills. From here, head straight up the side of the mountain. There is no clear path, but it is best to stay to the left of the fence. Although there are rocks, there are always ways to navigate

around them. Keep moving upwards as the ascent eventually eases, and a grassy rise to the right will continue to the summit.

There are several options to explore from here, but a circular walk that includes Dolwyddelan is a good one. Dolwyddelan has a shop and a pub called Y Gwydyr, so make sure to check their opening times. Dolwyddelan Castle is also worth a visit, although it is currently closed due to the pandemic. However, you can still enjoy the view from the top and the public footpath goes right past it. If you want to explore further, there are several tracks and footpaths around Cwm Penamnen that you can follow. The distance of the circular walk starting from your hut is 21km.



Moel Penamnen dominating the skyline.



Ascent of Moel Penamnen showing the approximate route to be taken. It is not apparent from below but the highest point is the further of the two summits.

Here is a suggested route for you to follow: Starting from the summit, head east while skirting Foel Fras. Stay above the damp ground below (where the footpath on the map is shown but doesn't exist in reality). When you come across a fence on flatter, boggier ground, continue along it and take a left onto a footpath that leads down into Cwm Penamnen. Part-way down, take a right onto a broad forest road and follow it to Dolwyddelan. Turn left when you reach a tarmac road and cross a bridge to enter the village. Walk through the village and turn left along the side of A470. Follow this uphill until you see a lay-by. About 200m after the lay-by, take a footpath that diverges to the right. Follow this path uphill until you see the castle on the left, and then walk up to the mound.

Dolwyddelan Castle is a Welsh fortress that was built to command the mountain passes in Snowdonia. It stands as a lasting memorial to Prince Llywelyn ap Iorwerth or Llywelyn the Great, who ruled Gwynedd from 1201 to his death in 1240. The castle was finally conquered during the reign of his grandson, Llywelyn ap Gruffudd, by the English king Edward I. This marked a crucial stage in Edward's campaign to crush the Welsh once and for all. After the castle fell in 1283, Edward raised the height of the keep, built a new tower, and installed a siege engine complete with stone 'cannonballs.'

Return to the track and continue on the obvious track uphill and then down until you meet a minor road at the farm at Pen-y-rhiw. Turn left down the road and cross the river and the railway. Just beyond the bridge over the railway, take a farm track heading west. Pass through a farmyard and a little later, cross the railway on another

bridge. Drop down and head west. The path here may not be clear, but aim for where the wall and a river bank join in the northwest corner of the field. Pass through the wall and then take a narrow path down a bank. The path skirts a field and then passes through small trees that are slowly covering an old slate quarry. Follow the path to its end where it joins another farm track.

Turn left uphill and follow this through a farmyard. Do not take the footpath off to the left, but stay on the track for another 500m beyond the farm. A track will head off to the left, immediately passing under the railway. Follow this obvious track, which twists and turns, climbing uphill all the time. It was built to take machinery to an air shaft driven to help with the construction of the railway tunnel into Blaenau Ffestiniog. When the path eventually reaches a large pile of rocks and the remains of buildings surrounding the air shaft, take a left track that contours around the hillside. After 2.5km from the shaft, you will reach the side of A470. Note that not all of this part of the route is shown on the map since the OS has included this on another sheet.

Turn right and walk down the verge for 1250m and then take walk 1 back to your hut.