

PEN Y FAN

MODERATE, 11.5 km, 3h 30min, Grid Ref.: SN988199, Wales

Walk Description

Pen y Fan (2,906ft) is the highest peak in South Wales and dominates the skyline when looking south from Brecon, along with its slightly smaller sister, Corn Du (2,864ft). The views on a clear day are extensive, in all directions, but the Neuadd, Pentwyn and Pontsticill Reservoirs to the south are particularly beautiful when the sun catches them. This route captures the summits of Pen y Fan and Cribyn (2,608ft), before returning to Pen y Fan, to shimmy up Corn Du, before descending over the smaller hump of Y Garn (2,031ft). With fantastic views and a fantastic climb, don't expect to be the only one up there. By Simon Whaley.

WPT 1 [Grid Ref.: SN987198]

Head south along car park, past toilets, and shortly after, take path, L, signed to Pen y Fan and Corn Du. Pass through kissing-gate beside an information panel and drop down a stone path to cross through a large stream. Once across, path begins to climb. Much work has been done by the National Trust and the path underfoot is solid, as it climbs steadily. Ignore a smaller path on the L dropping downhill, and continue to climb until you reach the top of the Craig Gwaun Taf ridge, where you will see a junction of paths. Take the second path on the L, which follows the ridge edge as it skirts around the R-hand side of Corn Du. Ignore a small track that forks downhill to the R and continue on the main track. Continue ahead where another path joins from the L and climb up to the summit of Pen y Fan.

WPT 2 [Grid Ref.: SO011215]

There are good views from the summit here, and from the large cairn, turn sharp R to follow the ridge away from the summit before dropping down a steep section. Soon the path becomes clear once more and drops more than 650ft. Where the path forks, bear L down a stone-stepped path on to a boggy section with stepping stones across a stream. The climb up to Cribyn is on a good stone path which climbs steeply up to its summit with excellent views.

WPT 3 [Grid Ref.: SO023212]

From Cribyn, return back to the summit of Pen y Fan, using the path you've just used. Once at the summit of Pen y Fan, turn L to follow path downhill and where it forks, bear R to stay alongside the edge of the ridge. This soon climbs once more, up to the summit of Corn Du.

WPT 4 [Grid Ref.: SO006211]

From the summit, ignore the large path to the L along the ridge, and instead take care to find the stepped path over the ridge, on to a well-made stone track which veers to the R and follows the edge of Craig Cwm Llwhch downhill. This permissive path drops steeply and then bears L away from the ridge and continues downhill. Drop down to a stream and cross, climbing up to a stile. Cross and continue up to the summit of Y Garn, before dropping down the other side, passing a wood, L. At road, cross the stile and turn L. Follow the grass verge along the A470, also signed as the Taff Trail and the Beacon's Way, past the Storey Arms Centre back to the car park.

Terrain

Some well constructed paths, but loose stones, and steep ascents/ descents, too

Suitable

children

Parking

Large lay-by with toilets by Storey Arms Centre, grid ref SN987199

Town

Brecon

Refresh

Some well constructed paths, but loose stones, and steep ascents/ descents, too

Transport

At lay-by



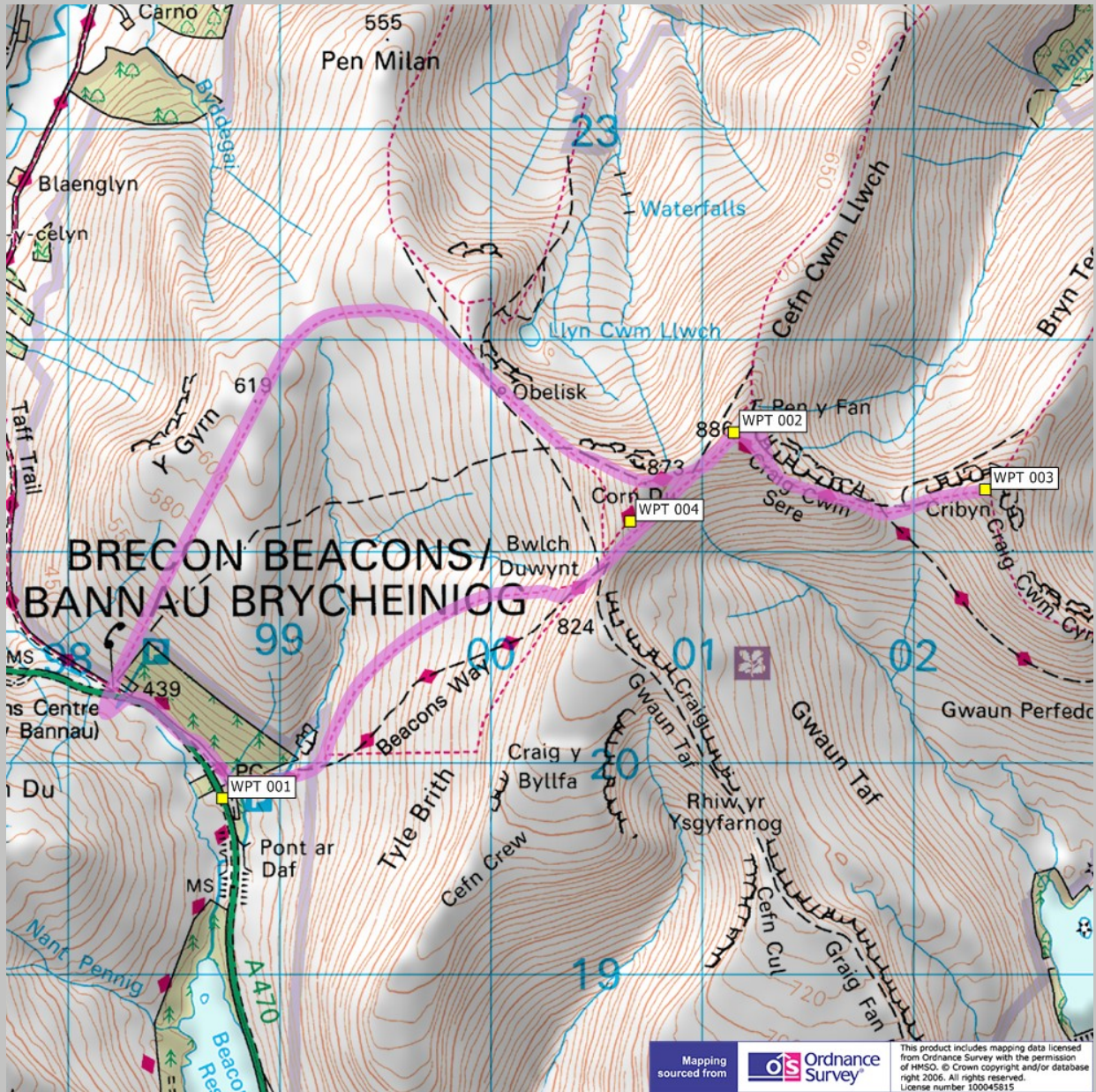
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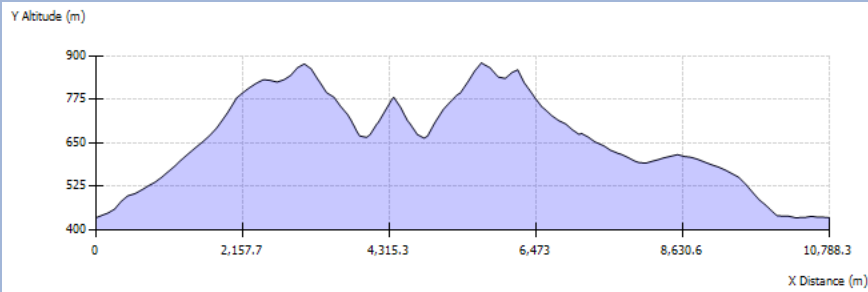


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Total Air Distance: 10,788.3 m
 Total DTM Distance: 10,967.7 m
 Min. Altitude: 435.2 m
 Max. Altitude: 881.7 m
 Avg. Altitude: 667.5 m
 Total Ascent: 839.3 m
 Total Descent: -839.3 m
 Total Ascent Distance: 5,072.5 m
 Total Descent Distance: 5,680.2 m
 Total Level Distance: 215 m
 Percent Ascent: 46.2%
 Percent Descent: 51.8%
 Percent Level: 2%



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