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WEATHERMAN WALKING ABERGYNOLWYN 5 MILES

A walk from BBC One Wales Weatherman Walking series, starring Derek Brockleway.

The walk begins at Nant Gwernol Station on the Talyllyn Railway. Park at the Talyllyn Railway Station car park at Abergynolwyn, on the B4405. Alternatively take the Talyllyn Railway, Timetables are available in the games room.

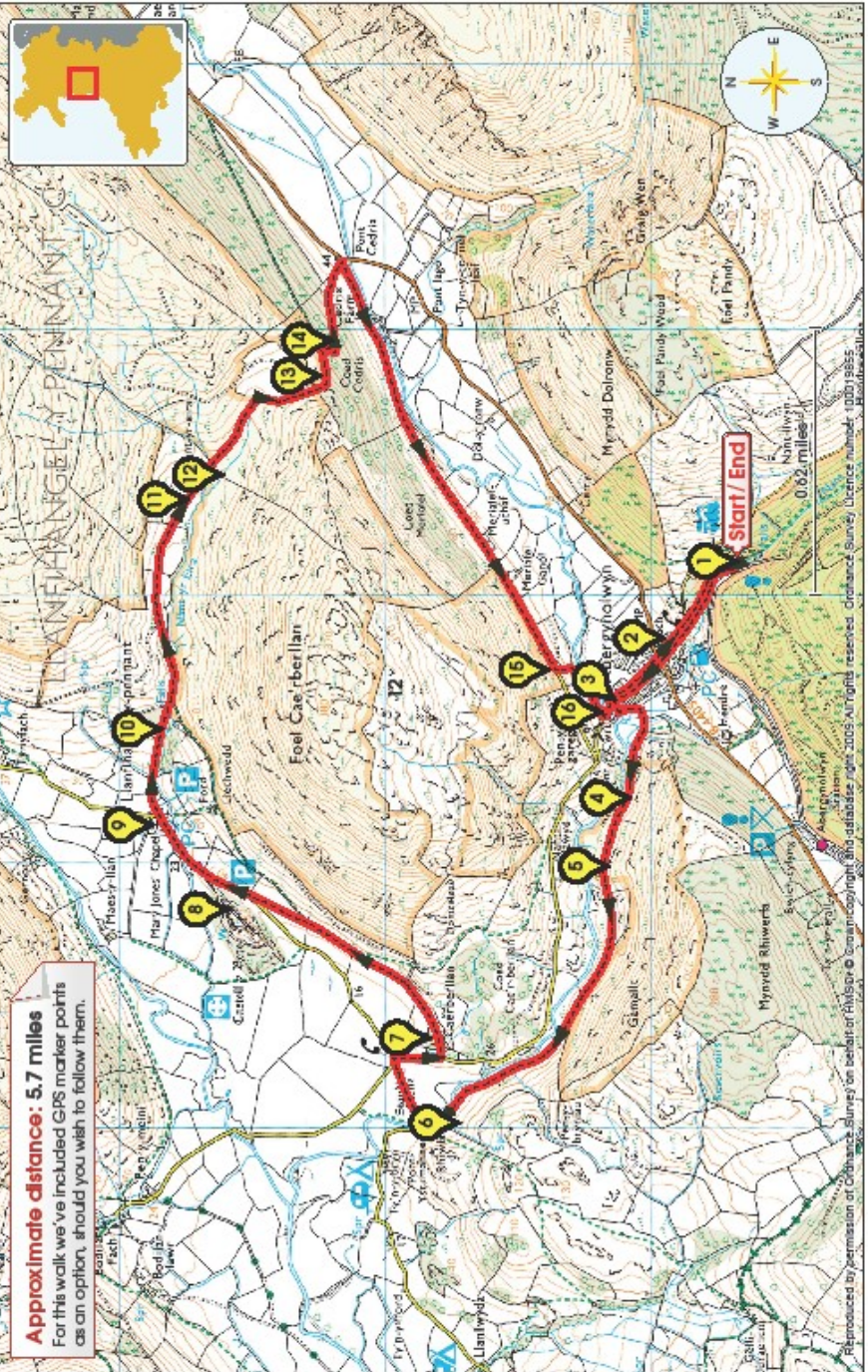
Dyfi Forest conceals the remains of many old slate quarries that once provided work for hundreds of men. The best known is Bryn Eglwys at the head of Nant Gwernol where in 1877, around 8,000 tons of slate was produced. The slates were transported from the quarry along an extensive system of tramways and inclines that approached Abergynolwyn Station where the tramway joined the Talyllyn Railway. A series of walks run from Nant Gwernol Station into the quarry.



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Weatherman Walking - Abergynolwyn



The Weatherman Walking maps are intended as a guide to the TV programme only. Routes and conditions may have changed since the programme was made. The BBC takes no responsibility for any accident or injury that may occur while following the route. Always wear appropriate clothing and footwear and check weather conditions before heading out.

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Weatherman Walking - Abergynolwyn

Approximate distance: 5.7 miles

Steam trains, a magnificent hill top castle surrounded by mountains and converging rivers make this a walk to remember.

**1. Nant Gwernol Station**

52.64185° N, -3.95062° W

Steam trains used this line to transport slate from the nearby Bryn Eglwys quarry to places as far afield as London and Birmingham.

**2. Quarrymen's houses**

52.644° N, -3.95545° W

These picturesque, old stone terraces show real craftsmanship and once housed workers from the nearby quarry.

**3. Capel y Cwrt**

52.64586° N, -3.95856° W

At the end of the road before the stone bridge is an area known as Y Cwrt.

Turn left at the chapel and walk down behind the cottages, turning right onto a footbridge.

**4. Cow rings and trough**

52.64588° N, -3.96543° W

A rocky outcrop marks the spot where small iron rings have been embedded into the rock.

These were used by local farm women to tether cows.

**5. Valley views**

52.64898° N, -3.97893° W

Follow the track down along the valley and through a wooden gate.

The steep hillsides were covered in rusty bracken when we walked here in October.

**6. Stone wall**

From here you will have see some spectacular views down towards Foel Coe'rberllan and Castell Y Bere.

Turn right onto the bridge and head up the road.

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Weatherman Walking - Abergynolwyn

**7. Caerberllan farmhouse**

52.65122° N, -3.97786° W

This amazing building was built in 1590 and has an infamous history of murder and family feuds.

Walk through the farmyard and onto the castle.

**8. Castell Y Bere**

52.65887° N, -3.97578° W

Started by Llewelyn the Great in 1221, it was captured by the English in 1283.

This mountain fortress perched high on a rocky spur has commanding views over the valley.

**9. Mary Jones' chapel (St Michael's Church)**

52.66110° N, -3.96586° W

Walking down from the castle we veered left towards Ty'n y Ddol.

Mary Jones was a local girl who walked 25 miles from here to Bala in bare feet, just to get her copy of a Welsh bible.

**10. Oak forests**

52.66129° N, -3.96341° W

An overgrown track opens up where oak trees hug the river bends.

Follow a winding path up to a lovely waterfall. Head up the hill and over the stile.

**11. Split rock**

52.66021° N, -3.95607° W

Take a look and see if you can spot the local farmers' graffiti on it where they've carved their names.

Ahead lies a spectacular route through the valley.

**12. Old stone boundary walls**

52.65968° N, -3.94567° W

Along this route you'll spot old stone field boundary walls - some of which go right up and over the mountain tops.

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**13. Views over the Bala fault line**

52.65576° N, -3.94098° W

Pass the sheep pens and head down the track and take in views across the valley, to an old geological fault line which is actually a rupture in the land.

**14. Mountain oak woodlands**

52.65610° N, -3.93905° W

Follow a steep, winding track down through a wonderful forest of mountain oak known as Coed Cedris, until you reach the field below and turn right.

**15. The river path**

52.647794, -3.956737

After approximately half a mile turn left at a signpost near a house and make your way down various steps and styles to the river.

**16. Pont y Cwrt**

52.646053, -3.95901

After a short stroll along the banks of the river you'll arrive at a stone bridge.

Make your way up onto the road, turn left and head back towards the train station.

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Castell Y Bere

Another of Llywelyn ap Iorwerth's castles, Castell Y Bere was built after 1221 in Merioneth. The castle was impressive, with strong towers, simple curtain walls, and strong rock-cut ditches. A rectangular tower with one end rounded off provided an advantageous field of fire on the most vulnerable side. This 'D' shape was quite unique and marked out the Welsh castles from their Norman counterparts. This tower probably contained the royal chapel where the princes would worship, whilst evidence of deep cisterns for a constant water supply meant that the castle was well-prepared for being under siege.

Half a Mile along the road from the castle you will find the monument to Mary Jones, whose barefoot walk to Bala in search of a Welsh Bible helped to inspire the founding of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

