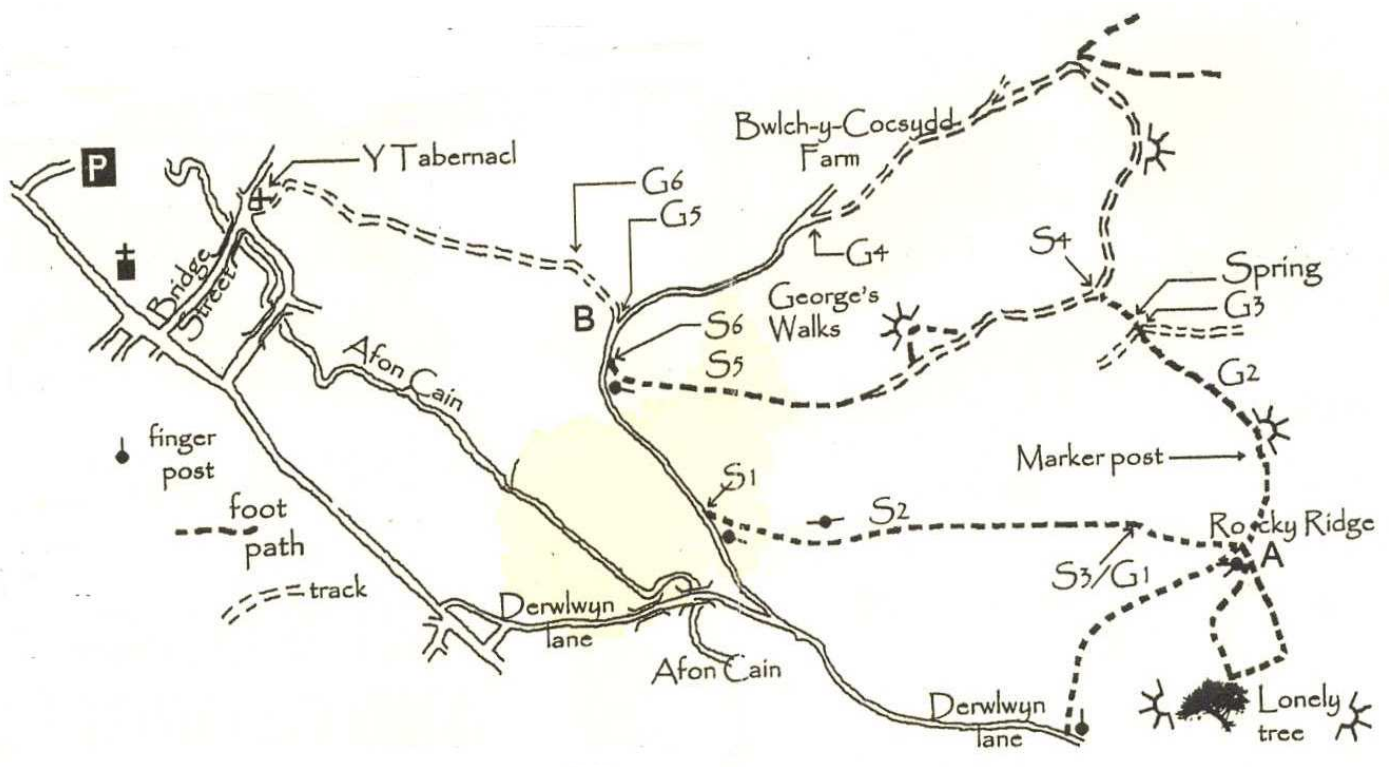


Walks from Llanfyllin

THE LONELY TREE AND GEORGE'S WALK

A fine hill-top walk of 2½ miles with shorter variants.

Steep in places and occasionally rough underfoot. The views are outstanding.



From the Car Park, head south east down the main street, passing the Library and the High School on your right. Turn left down Derwlwyn Lane (opposite Bachie Road); this was once the main road towards Llanfechain before the turnpike was built. Cross the old Llanfyllin Branch Railway, opened in 1863 and closed in 1965, and then a bridge over the Rover Cain.

At a junction double back left and very soon you will see a footpath sign, steps and a stile S1 on your right. Cross this stile and follow a faint grassy track climbing steeply to the right beside a row of old cherry trees. Keep going uphill making for a signpost on the brow ahead. Here pause for breath and look back over the town.

Carry on in the same direction, now more gently, and head straight for a stile S2. Cross this and skirt the nettle-filled gully and continue on the same line as before, making for a conspicuous hump on the skyline. Near the top of the field is a stile S3 on the right by a gate G1. Cross the stile and follow a green road – an old miners' road – cut out of the hillside.

Below you to the right you can see the former Union Workhouse, Y Dolydd, built in 1838. Work is in progress to restore this fine building to provide apartments as well as a gallery and workshops for local artists and artisans.

At the next signpost, follow the wheel tracks over the ridge to the Lonely Tree – gaunt gnarled Scots Pine (now dead) to your right. If you give it a hug, you will be sure to come back to Llanfyllin one day. Rest here and enjoy the view

across Allt y Gader. (Access to the Lonely Tree is by courtesy of the landowner – Green Hall Hill remains private property. Please leave no sign of your visit and take care to close all gates securely.)

Return to the signpost **Point A**. *For a shorter walk, follow the route downhill, descending steeply through woodland, and turn right along Derwlwyn Lane. Ignore the turning back over the bridge and fork right up the lane to re-join the main route at **Point B**.*

For the main walk, stand by the signpost with your back to the Lonely Tree. In front of you is a low ridge, a few yards to the right it has crumbled away in a series of ledges to form rough steps, easy to scramble up. (If you want to avoid the scramble, walk further to the right to where the rocks end.) From the top, admire the view eastward to the Shropshire Plain.

Do not walk that way, but strike North, with the Lonely Tree and the signpost behind you. The highest summit will be on your left; head over rough ground crossing a gully towards a waymarked post on a small rocky outcrop about 100 yards away. A faint track leads you to the right of the outcrop and drops down to a metal gate G2 in the angle of the fence.

Go through and continue with trees on your left and the fence on your right to a little dip. Another track comes up through a gateway on the right – Gate G3. Go right through this gate and then immediately left heading uphill past a spring with the fence on your left. Wild daffodils grow here in the springtime. In the top left corner of the field cross a stile S4 into thin woodland. Go left along the track to the open ground. This hillside is marked on maps as ‘George’s Walks’. These paths were made by the woodman from Bodfach Hall Estate through the larch woods that were felled during the First World War.

Walk onto the rocky hillock to your right, the highest point on this part of the hill, and climb to the summit. The footpath has been diverted here to allow walkers to enjoy the panoramic view – the finest view on this walk. Below you is another ‘Lonely Tree’ overlooking Llanfyllin and the farm Bwlch y Cocsydd.

Now you have a choice. For a direct, but rather steep descent to Llanfyllin, return to the fence on your left and follow it downhill, cross a stile S5 at the bottom of a small plantation and dropping sharply down to another stile S6 onto the lane. Go right a few yards then turn left through a gate G5 – **Point B**.

For an easier route, retrace your steps to the last stile S4. Do not cross it but follow the track as it curves left downhill and passes above the farm buildings. Go through gate G4 and continue downhill onto a tarred lane. Continue down the lane and just before a footpath sign on the left, turn back sharp right through gate G5 **Point B**.

Follow the path and pass through another gate G6 and descend, passing between a stream and Y Tabernacl, the Wesleyan Chapel of 1904. Cross the road and river bridge and follow Bridge Street to the town centre. Turn right into the Market Square. The car park is on the right beyond St Myllin’s Church.

The altitude at the start is 126m (412 feet) and at the highest point on the walk is 263m (860 feet) a difference of 149m (487 feet) climbed and descended. – plus all of the intermediate climbs and descents. The total distance is approximately 4 miles or 2.5 kilometres.

Please:

- **Keep to the rights of way and marked footpaths**
- **Keep your dog on a lead and do not allow it to foul footpaths or pastures. Take extra care during the lambing season – January to June.**
- **Take care not to damage gates, fences or stiles. Leave all gates as you find them or re-fasten securely those that you have to open.**
- **Respect the environment and help maintain a viable countryside.**
- **Go equipped with adequate footwear: the walks cross open countryside even though close to Llanfyllin.**