

Bodfari to Penycloddiau Circular



Route detail

A splendid figure-of-eight walk into the Clwydian Range from Bodfari, offering short, medium and long options, exploring an extensive hill fort on Penycloddiau, returning along the Offa's Dyke Path.

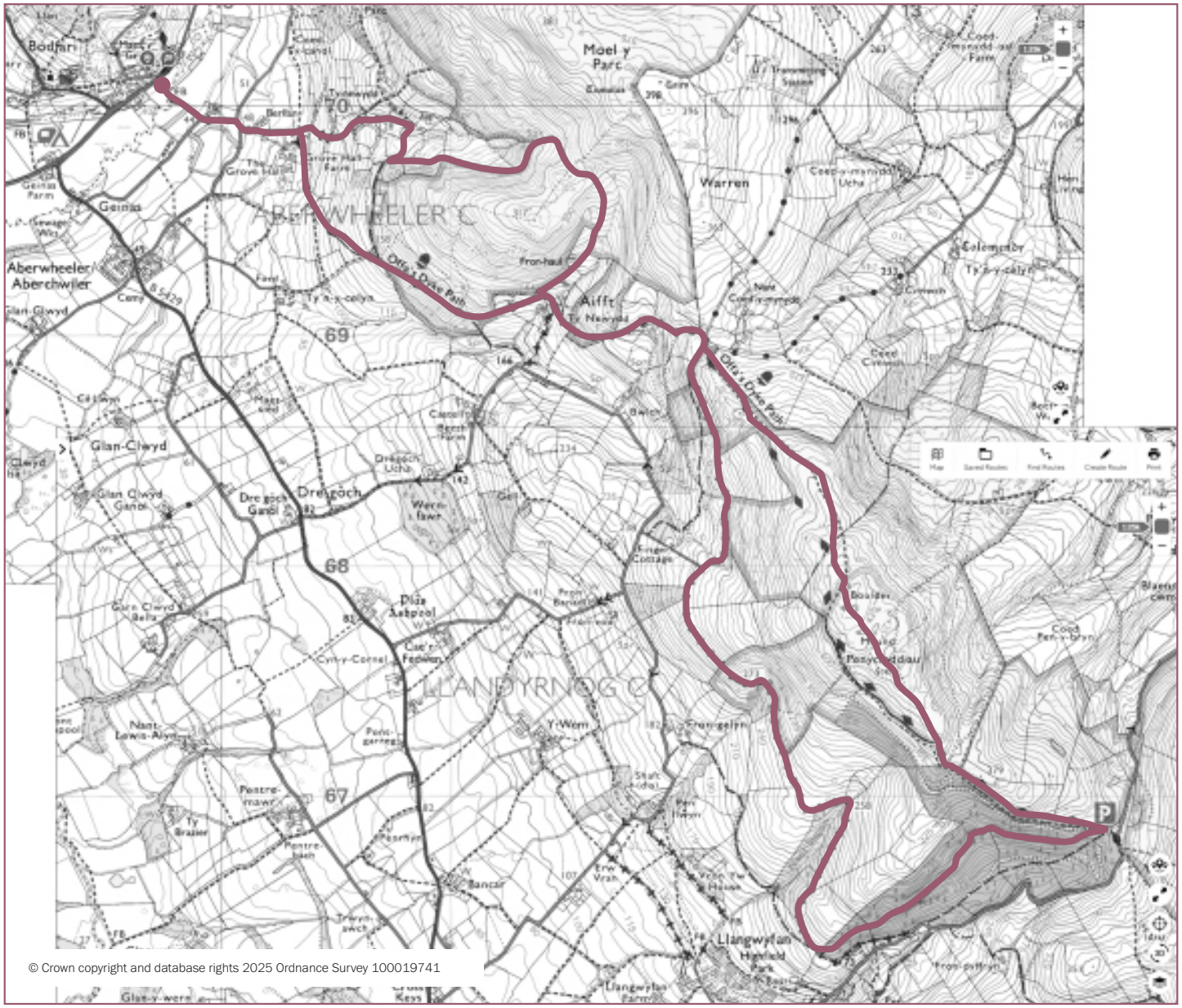
Distance:	3.4 miles / 5.5km or; 7.9 miles / 9.3km
Start location:	Bus stop, Victoria Terrace, Bodfari
Start Grid Ref:	SJ 09724 70122
Start What3Words:	burns.trackers.user

Start

If arriving on the bus from Denbigh, start at the Victoria Terrace bus shelter in Bodfari. If arriving on the bus from Wrexham, start at the Railway Terrace bus shelter and walk a short distance back to the Victoria Terrace bus shelter. The Offa's Dyke Path crosses the A541 road here, so go through a kissing gate and follow an enclosed footpath to cross a nearby footbridge. A field path leads quickly to a minor road. Turn left along it, passing Aberwheeler Farmhouse, then quickly turn right and left as signposted by 'acorn' markers at road junctions. Walk up the road to reach yet another junction, beside a small red post box. The Offa's Dyke Path turns right here towards Grove Hall Farm, but don't follow it, as this stretch will be used on the return route. Instead, keep walking straight up the road.

The road is steep and bendy as it climbs past woodland with a stream alongside. Pass a few houses, then when the tarmac ends, turn right as signposted up a track flanked by trees. Turn sharp left at a track junction and walk up through a gate on a wooded slope. Go through another gate onto a slope of bracken, still following a clear track, though it is now mostly grassy underfoot. There are some muddy stretches, but keep climbing

Offa's Dyke Path **SHORT WALKS**
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and the track eventually reaches a marker post on a gentle gap, around 310m beside the hill of Moel y Parc. Extensive views stretch from the nesrby Clwydian Range to the shapely peaks of Eryri and the more distant hills and sprawling moorlands of mid-Wales.

Walk straight ahead to start descending, still following a clear grassy track. This later becomes an access track passing two farms at before turning sharp left towards a huddle of buildings at Aifft. Pass a junction marked with an 'acorn' for the Offa's Dyke Path and keep left, in effect straight ahead. (Turning right offers a short-cut back to Bodfari, completing a circuit of only 3.4 miles / 5.5km.) Walk straight up a steep and stony track as marked, and keep climbing across a bracken-clad hillside, passing through a number of big gates as marked by 'acorn' markers. Eventually, reach a big gate leading onto a gap in the hills around 305m and step onto an access road. Turn right, and almost immediately go through a big gate on the right signposted 'Cilffordd/Byway'.

Although the Offa's Dyke Path climbs uphill here, don't follow it, as it will be used on the return route. Instead, follow the clear track onwards, and although it may be muddy at first after wet weather, it quickly improves. Open hillside rises above the track, dotted with gorse bushes, while enclosed farmland lies below the track, with views across the broad Vale of Clwyd to distant mountains, hills and moorland. The track is later enclosed on both sides, then later still it crosses open slopes again. Pass a big rusty tank beside a small woodland, then further along the track, more woodland tends to obscure views as the track descends more noticeably above Llangwyfan.

Watch carefully to spot a path rising to the left, which quickly reaches a gate offering access to the forest of Coed Llangwyfan. Follow a clear path as it rises across a steep forested slope, where densely-planted larch gives way to sparsely-planted Scots pines that allow views towards Moel Arthur. Pass through a more mixed part of

the forest as the path levels out and approaches a car park. (This car park could be used an alternative starting point for the walk, as well as offering an option to make a circuit around Penycloddiau, omitting a visit to Bodfari, measuring 4.9 miles / 7.9km.) There is no need to go through a gate into the car park. Instead, turn sharp left onto a forest track, then almost immediately turn right up a path marked by an 'acorn' marker for the Offa's Dyke Path.

The path climbs steeply just inside the forest, eventually reaching a kissing gate. Go through and step onto the open slopes of Penycloddiau, following a grassy path flanked by heather and bilberry. Note how the path climbs across the vague earth rampart of an extensive hillfort, where it is worth looking at the Ordnance Survey map to appreciate its full extent. There are occasional marker posts at path junctions throughout the ascent, and the path is like a green carpet until the grassy surface becomes worn near towards the broad moorland top of Penycloddiau. The 440m summit is marked by Bronze Age burial mound that was reconstructed in 2010. Enjoy the extensive views on a clear day, which embrace the Clwydian Range, Eryri and the hills and moorlands of mid-Wales.

A stone-pitched path drops down across the heather-clad ramparts of the hillfort, reaching a kissing gate and a memorial stone to Arthur Roberts, who was deeply involved with the Offa's Dyke Path and the Clwydian Range. Follow the path over a hump, then there are quite a few wet and muddy patches as the path descends gradually, eventually reaching the big gate onto the access road used earlier in the day's walk, on a gap in the hills around 305m. Go through the gate and turn left, then almost immediately turn left again through another big gate. Simply follow the Offa's Dyke Path down the track, through a succession of gates as marked, to return to the huddle of buildings at Aifft, passed earlier in the day's walk.

After a final steep and stony descent past a farmhouse, walk straight ahead uphill, then turn left as signposted with an 'acorn' for the Offa's Dyke Path. A gentle track runs across a hillside, and while it might be muddy in places, there are also some delightful grassy stretches. Cross a hillside covered in bracken and gorse bushes, then an 'acorn' signpost points left down another path, and the village of Bodfari can be seen in the distance. Cross a stile beside a gate and walk across a field as signposted. Walk down between gorse bushes to cross another stile and turn right. A field path crosses a stile to reach a road junction near Grove Hall Farm, where there is a red post box that was passed earlier in the day's walk.

Turn left to walk down the road, then quickly turn right and left at road junctions as marked, passing the Aberwheeler Farmhouse. Turn right through a kissing gate, follow a field path to a footbridge, and return to the A541 road at the Victoria Terrace bus shelter. There is a pub in Bodfari, the Dinorben Arms, which can be reached by following a pleasant tarmac path instead of roads.

Parking: Very limited roadside parking at Bodfari. Please park considerately. Car park is also available at Coed Llangwyfan.
Bus: Regular daily buses, except Sundays, to Bodfari from Wrexham and Denbigh.
Train: None.

