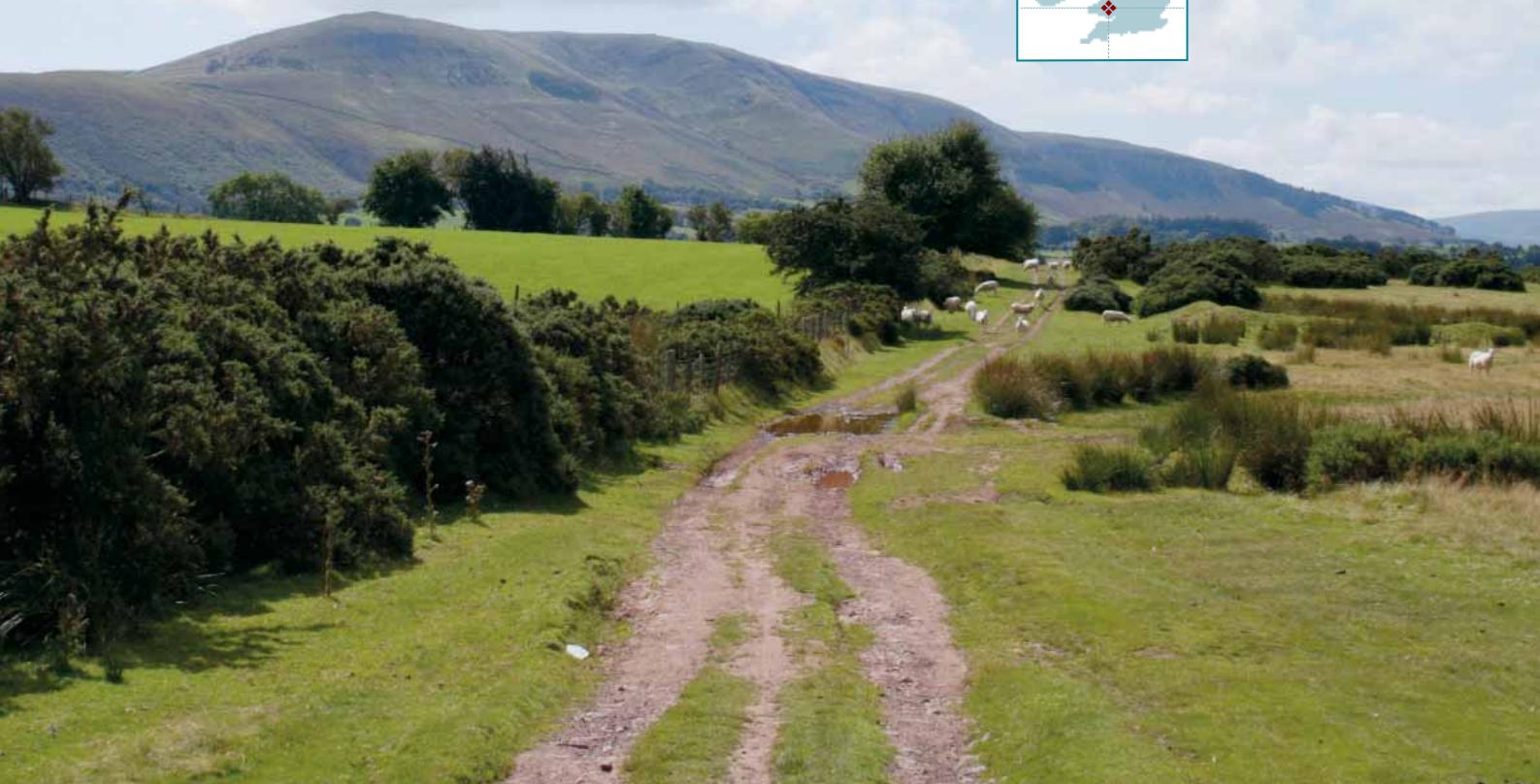


Walk on the WILD SIDE

JO VAUGHAN HEADS FOR THE EDGE OF THE BRECON BEACONS NATIONAL PARK FOR A PICTURESQUE WALK THIS MONTH



THE CLUB'S Aberbran site, set among the Brecon Beacons, is a perfect base for an active holiday. The Brecon Beacons National Park covers 529 square miles and boasts some of the most diverse landscapes Wales has to offer. So whatever outdoor activity you

wish to indulge in, you'll probably be able to do it here.

But we're interested in walking, and it is possible to find a route direct from the site. Alternatively, just a handful of miles south is the National Park Visitor Centre, which is a favourite starting place with keen hikers and

afternoon strollers alike. The Centre is the perfect place to find out more about the region too, but it also has more essential facilities like toilets and a café, and its car park is large enough for any motor caravan to find a temporary resting place. Don't forget some change for the meter, though!

INFORMATION	GENERAL	INFORMATION	ATTRACTIOnS
<p>NEAREST CLUB SITE: Aberbran, Aberbran, Brecon LD3 9NH. Tel 01874 622424. Open: 14 March to 27 October</p> <p>DISTANCE: 7.1 miles/11.4km</p> <p>TERRAIN: Mostly grassy tracks and tarmac lanes, steep downhill section could be muddy and slippery after periods of rain</p> <p>NUMBER OF STILES: 2</p> <p>ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT: Ordnance Survey Explorer Map OL12 – Brecon Beacons National Park – Western Area</p> <p>LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: Moderate to strenuous</p> <p>REFRESHMENTS: At the Visitor Centre</p> <p>DIRECTIONS AND PARKING: Park in the National Park Visitor Centre Car Park. From the site head to the A40 where you turn left until a large roundabout at the junction with the A470. Turn right onto the A470 and continue until you see the Visitor Centre sign taking you off to the right</p> <p>TOILETS: At the Visitor Centre</p>		<p>Brecknock Museum & Art Gallery, Captains Walk, Powys LD3 7DW. Tel 01874 624121 or see powys.gov.uk. Open: Mon-Fri 10am-5pm (closed Mon, Oct-Mar), Sat 10am-1pm and 2pm-5pm, Sun 12noon-5pm (Apr-Sep only). Home to a number of changing exhibitions by local Welsh artists, as well as craft demonstrations and local history galleries</p> <p>Brecon Castle, Castle Square, Brecon LD3 9DB. Tel 01874 624611 or see castlewales.com/brecon.html. Cost: free. Open: 9am-5pm every day. The ruins of the Tower and Great Hall are open daily to visitors with guided tours being available by appointment</p> <p>Llangorse Multi Activity Centre, Gilfach Farm, Llangorse, Brecon, Powys LD3 7UH. Tel 01874 658584 or see activityuk.com. Cost: Sky Trek £23 for a two-hour session; Horse Trekking from £14 for one hour (over 7 years), or £7.50 for pony rides (over 4 years). Open: all year. Activities include Sky Trek (an aerial course), riding, climbing, dingle scramble and a challenge course</p>	

DIRECTIONS

- 1 Leave the car park by the gate beside the cattle grid (where you drove in), and turn left along the road. At the T-junction go straight over on to the gravel track.
- 2 Keep an eye open for small rocks on either side of the track – just after these, six or seven wooden posts, each approximately 2ft high, mark your turn to the right. Follow vehicle tracks in the grass to the left of the gorse. Continue straight

on past three posts across the track, and then follow the left fork. Pass a small standing stone on the left.

- 3 At the unfenced tarmac road, cross straight over and continue down a wide, grassy track between fences and dry stone walls, which run on each side. Go through a metal gate marked with an arrow before going through another. Ignore a blue arrow pointing left and go through a wooden gate ahead, then another metal gate. Continue over two

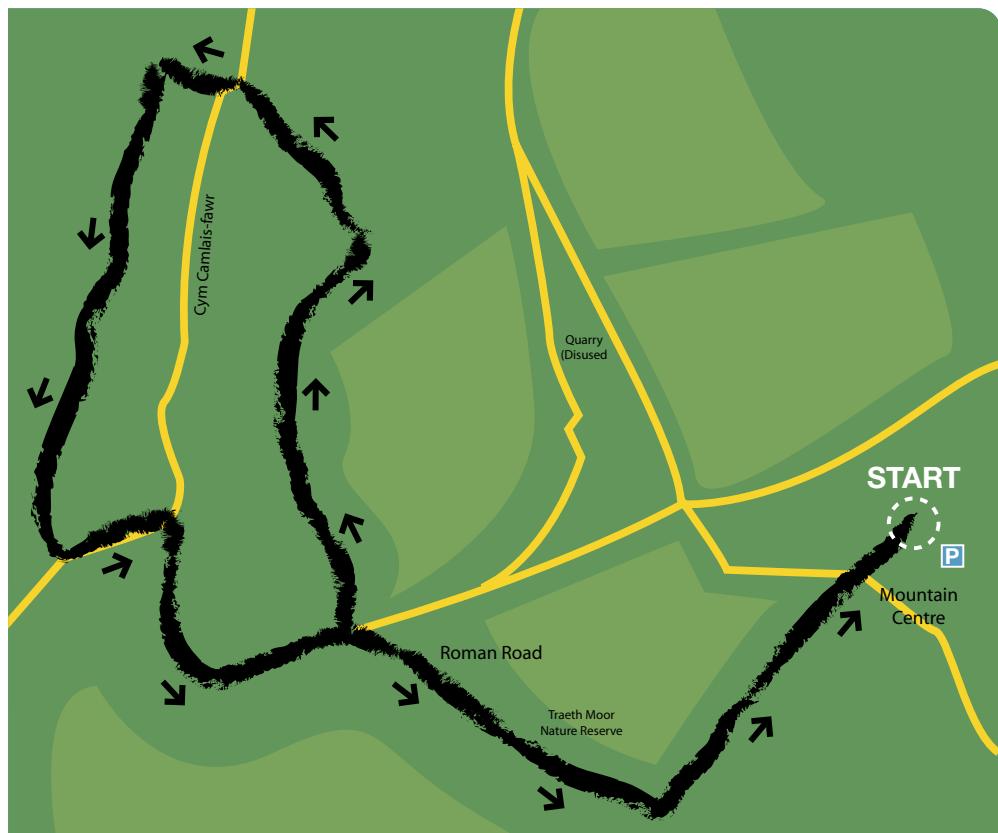
stile, through three smaller wooden gates, and walk down the steep hill.

- 4 Go through a fourth small gate and turn left through woodland on a much smaller path. Continue through two more gates, all the time going downhill. If you wish to see the pretty stream, look out for a path to the right; but make sure you return to the main path afterwards. Then go through another metal gate, continue over a wooden bridge and turn right. Go through a farmyard and turn left at the road.

- 5 At the road junction take the right fork and then, at the T-junction, turn left. Continue along this steeply climbing lane (which has great views) until eventually you come to another T-junction – turn left here.

- 6 Go downhill, walk over the bridge and then head up the other side of the incline. Pass through the first of three wooden gates on your right and continue straight on. Carry on straight through two more metal gates (one of them may be tied shut but this is the correct way to go). Then head through the farmyard to a lane. Continue along the lane to a T-junction where you turn left.

- 7 After the cattle grid you return to the pond (this time it's on your right). Turn right here and retrace your steps across the nature reserve before turning left on to the major track that returns to the Visitor Centre and car park.



INFORMATION | TOURISM

National Park Visitor Centre, Libanus, Brecon, Powys LD3 8ER. Open all year. Tel 01874 623366 or see breconbeacons.org