



## Bala Club Site - Foel Goch

Camping and Caravanning



### Route Summary



A real wilderness mountain route suitable for experienced hill walkers in settled weather. The going is rough and boggy (and often trackless) in places but the settings are stunning. If you enjoy remote terrains and great views then you'll love this route. Careful navigation required in places.

### Route Overview



**Category:** Hiking

**Length:** 9.730 km / 6.08 mi

**Last Modified:** 18th July 2017

**Difficulty:** Hard

**Rating:** Unrated

**Surface:** Very Rough

**Date Published:** 10th July 2017

### Description



### **Ascent of Foel Goch from Bala Camping and Caravanning Club Site**

This route to the 2,004ft/611 metre summit of Foel Goch also visits the top of Orddu and is for experienced hill walkers who can navigate in remote and often trackless (and sometimes wet) terrain. Mist or bad weather can hamper your progress so please bear these in mind when setting off.

Whatever the weather make sure you are equipped with good boots and a rucksack containing hat, gloves, waterproofs, food and drink. Dogs should be kept on leads as this is sheep country.

Despite the words of caution, this is a lovely walk that takes you into a real wilderness area.



**Remote and rough terrain are a feature of this walk, which should not be attempted in mist or bad weather**

Exit the Club Site past the barrier to reach the lane. Go left to follow the lane as it winds its way through farmland and under overhead cables. Pass a left turn with a bridge and continue on the lane to a point where it bends right and reaches a left junction with a signpost for 'Pentre'.



### Walking along the lane from the Club Site

Go left here, rising up steeply on the narrowing lane and passing between high banks. As the slope eases continue ahead on the lane to pass through a gate. Continue past two footpaths going off right and pass through another gate to walk through the farmyard you reach.

About half way through the farm, before the lane you are following dips and bends left, go right at a junction heading between barns to pass through double gates and continue through a gate/opening heading uphill. At a crossroad of tracks (in a sheep feeding area) curve left to pass through a gate (or cross the stile) and carry on with an old wall on your left.



### The track above the farmyard

Rise between walls into more open country and pass through a gate continuing uphill on the grassy track. Rise steadily with a wall/fence (and later a fence) on the left. The path gets rougher as you rise and soon curves left over a bridge passing through a gate/opening. Now go right through a gate/opening and continue along the left bank of a stream with a fence right. The going now gets rougher (and often wetter).



Follow the fence and at a path/track junction stay half right. With the fence to descend to continue near the fence through a very boggy section. The way here is often overgrown and needs following carefully. Keep the fence on your right and when it crosses to the other side of the stream, continue on the path near the stream to reach a gate in the fence and pass through it.

Follow the wet path/track beyond to cross a stream and stay on the vague path on the other side. Curve right (with a fence right) to cut left over a stream. The path now rises through a marshy area and heads uphill going right of the summit of Orddu above left. Keep the fence on your right and as the path fades completely continue uphill north easterly through trackless ground using the fence over right as a guide and aim for the small col at the head of the fence above. Continue up near the fence through difficult terrain to reach a fence corner just below the small col you have been aiming for.



### **The way to the small col**

Go left with the fence to climb steeply up the slopes of Orddu. Curve left at a junction of fences by a boundary stone and follow the developing path to the small boulder which marks the summit of Orddu. Continue ahead with the fence right heading towards Foel Goch.



### On the way to Foel Goch

Follow the path as it starts to descend, keeping the fence on your right. Continue to a col and a crossroad of paths near a boundary stone. Continue ahead, going left of a gate to cross a stile by an old pallet. Take the path ahead which initially rises up an wet groove with a fence over right. Just before the fence bends right reach a good track/path and cut left on this. Wind a way up Foel Goch on this path, passing a solitary cairn and cutting right beyond it. Higher up the path/track curves right to reach a dip/col with a cairn at a junction of paths. Go left to join a good wide track and rise up on this to reach the cairn, trig point and boundary stone on the summit of Foel Goch.



### At the summit of Foel Goch

Re-trace your steps back down to the dip/col and cairn and go right following your outbound route back down the hillside. Cut right when the path spits near the fence corner and descend the wet section to cross the stile. Continue back to the path crossroads near the boundary stone and then go right. Follow the grassy track downhill cutting half left over the slopes of Orddu. When another track joins keep ahead using the right hand track. Continue downhill with a fence on the right. The track is rough and in a groove but a path and way can usually be found left of it.



### The descent from Foel Goch

As you get lower down look for the gate below from your outbound route and follow the track in the general direction of it. Watch carefully for a faint path going right (it actually cuts across the track you are following) and take this and aim for the gate below. Descend through a rough marshy area to re-join your outbound route and drop to cross a stream then curve right through a boggy area to cross a stream and reach the gate.



**Looking back from the gate**



**Descending the moor beyond the gate**

Pass through the gate and go ahead on your outbound route with the fence on the opposite side of the brook. Work your way along the wet (and often overgrown track) keeping the stream to your left. Once the fence crosses the stream, continue next to it to climb up and cut half left to follow the track downhill keeping the fence left.

Continue past old sheepfolds left and descend through a gate/opening to go left through another gate/opening and cross a bridge. Go right to follow the track now on the opposite side of the stream and continue back along your outbound route.





**Looking back to Foel Goch from the descent route**



**Descending after crossing the bridge**

After a marshy section the track improves and you can simply follow your outbound route through two gates to pass through a third and then continue through double gates back into the farmyard. Go left at the junction after passing through the barns and pass through two gates to exit the farmyard to the lane. Follow this downhill, turn right at the junction and follow the lane back to the campsite.

## Waypoints

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# Choose your trail

