

Llanddona

Circular Coastal Walk

A moderate walk made tougher by taking some little-used tracks which are steep in places, and could be wet and overgrown. However, the magnificent views from the atmospheric limestone hillfort of *Bwrdd Arthur* more than make up for any hardship incurred on the return leg of this walk.



Directions

1 Beach Car Park to Bwrdd Arthur

From the beach car park cross the road towards the sea along a *boardwalk*, then turn right and walk along the beach. At the end there is a wooden



footbridge over a stream. Follow the Coast Path sign over the bridge along the edge of the beach and up the second set of steps to a kissing-gate. Turn left and walk alongside the hedge through two fields to the next kissing-gate. Follow the grassy path uphill towards two houses and another kissing-gate. Continue bearing right uphill and through the kissing-gate by a telegraph pole. Follow the Coast Path sign and turn right up the track heading inland. Where the track levels off at a right-hand bend, go left through the kissing-gate and follow the new path over the small footbridge to another kissing-gate. Follow the yellow waymarker across the steep field to the metal gate in the corner. Follow the path through the woods to a kissing-gate, and turn right up the steep flight of steps to a crossroads on the path. Go straight ahead across the track, leaving the Coast Path and up through the gorse to another kissing-gate and onto National Trust land *Bryn Offa*. Follow the path along the field edge through a kissing-gate to where it joins the road at a wooden gate. **Here it is worth making the short diversion to the top of Bwrdd Arthur: follow the path inside the fence parallel with the road. Shortly, a clear path goes uphill to the left and zigzags its way up to the trig point. Then retrace your steps back to the wooden gate.**

2 Bwrdd Arthur to Pen Rallt

Turn right onto the road and take the first road right named *Lôn Goch*. By a white stone marked *Castell Cottage* leave the road and head straight ahead down the track. **NB – from this point on, many of the tracks can be wet, muddy, and possibly overgrown. A shorter and easier route would be to follow the tarmacked road downhill to the sea and back to the start at the car park.** When the track turns sharp left continue straight ahead down the footpath between the hedges. Go down steps at the end by the drain outside *Tros yr Afon*. Turn left up the steep concrete drive and continue on up the muddy hedge-lined track. Keep walking uphill and when the path reaches a wire fence, bear right onto a flatter, gravel path. Cross the shallow ford, and you reach farm buildings. Bear right keeping the buildings on the left, follow the path to a gate, and turn right along the road at *Pen Rallt*.



3 Pen Rallt to Beach Car Park

Walk past *Hafod y Rhug* on the right and after approximately 100m turn left at the footpath sign, down a double-track towards the sea. When this track bends right and you see a collection of houses, turn left onto the grass and head for the nearby kissing-gate. Here the footpath splits so take the one going uphill as it is less churned up by livestock. Find a kissing-gate through the gorse above the white house, and follow the metal fence at the edge of the woods to emerge by the gates of the same white house, *Cae Maes Mawr*. Bear left onto the road and follow it downhill all the way back to the beach car park. ■



History and Interest

● **Llanddona's** haphazard pattern of development is indicative of smallholdings that were established on wasteland under the *Ty Unnos* or *squatters' rights* system. East of the village is the SSSI *Llanddona Common Nature Reserve*, and there are numerous other pieces of Common heathland scattered around the area.

● **Bwrdd Arthur** (*Arthur's Table*), or **Din Sylwy** is a flat-topped, steep-sided, limestone hill rising to 164m, and at its summit are the remains of an *Iron Age Hillfort*. The 2m-thick dry-stone wall around its perimeter, built in haste to repel invading Romans, encloses 7.5ha.

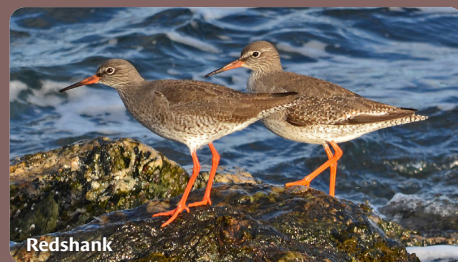
● Records of **St Michael's Church** on *Bwrdd Arthur's* eastern slope appear as early as 1254, but the present church dates to the early 15th century.

● A well-preserved medieval **Fish Weir**, designed to trap fish on an out-going tide, can be seen at low tide near the stream.

● **St Dona's Church**, from which the village takes its name, is dedicated to *St Dona* who lived on the shore nearby. The current building is Victorian, but the first church on this site was built in 610AD.

Wildlife

At low tide the 10km² of exposed sand mud, shingle and boulders at *Red Wharf Bay* welcomes *curlew*, *oystercatcher*, *redshank*, *plover*, *sandpipers*, *dunlin* and, during the winter months, *brent geese*.



Bwrdd Arthur's calcareous (limestone) grassland habitat is home to *western gorse*, *common rockrose*, *pale St John's wort*, *frog orchids*, *ivy broomrape* and the nationally rare *hoary rockrose*.

Public Transport

● The No.58L bus from *Beaumaris* stops 1km from the start of this walk.

Refreshments

● The beach car park at the start has a seasonal café, as well as picnic tables, toilets and a tourist information hut.

● *Llanddona* has no cafés or shops but its pub *Yr Owain Glyndwr* serves food.



Cored pysgod canoloesol /
Medieval fish weir

Traeth-coch / Red Wharf Bay

Cychwyn a Gorffen
Start and Finish

1



Grisiau traeth /
Beach steps

Pont droed /
Footbridge

Eglwys Sant Dona /
Church of St Dona

Rectory

Tros-yr-
Afon

Fflicws

Hafod-Wen

Ty Du

Meadow
View

Mast

Bryniau
Mawr

Ffynnon-
Oer

Castell
Cottage

Pentrellwyn

Godreddi
Bach

Môr
Awelon

Ty Pwtt

Tan Y
Gryddyn

Cae Maes
Mawr

Tyn
Ffynnon

Bwlch y
Ffos

Glan
Halen

Tan yr
Allt Wen

Hadfod-y-
Rhug

Pen Rallt

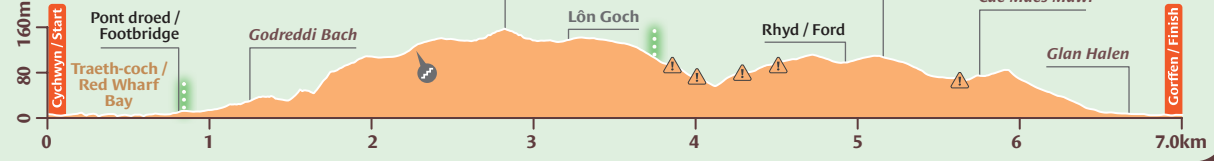
Rhyd / Ford

Tyn-y-pistyll

Allwedd / Key

- Llwybr cerdded dan sylw /
Featured walking route
Ceir arwyddion cyfeiriol bob 0.5km /
Arrows are at 0.5km intervals
- Llwybr yr Arfordir /
Coast Path
- Llwybr Troed /
Footpath
- Llwybr Byrrach /
Shortcut
- Pwynt Cyfarwyddiadau /
Instruction point
- Maes parcio /
Car park
- Toiletau /
Toilets
- Caffi /
Café
- Golygfán /
Viewpoint
- Gwybodaeth i dwristiaid /
Tourist information
- Grisïau /
Steps
- Cymerwch ofal /
Take care

Proffil uchder/ Elevation profile



DS: Nid yw'r ffaith fod ffordd neu lwybr yn cael ei gynhyrchu ar y map hwn yn dystiolaeth o fodolaeth hawl tramwy cyhoeddus.
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NB: The representation on this map of a road or path is not evidence of the existence of a public right of way.
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