Some ideas for walks from Barcud Lodge

General

These are some of our favourite walks from Llangennith. The walking on Gower is very varied: hills, fields, rocky coastal paths, dunes, marshes, beaches etc. Paths without stiles (for dogs and those that find stiles difficult) are shown in blue. You will need an OS map — either the 1:25,000 Explorer (Orange) number 164 'Gower' or the 1:50,000 Landranger (Pink) number 159 'Swansea & Gower'. There are car parks at Hillend and Broughton Caravan Parks and at Rhossili (parking charges apply in the season). Also there is one near the church in Llanmadoc on the road down to Cwm Ivy (£1 in the honesty box).

Walks on the Beaches

Rhossili/Llangennith Beach



There are several ways to access the main beach:

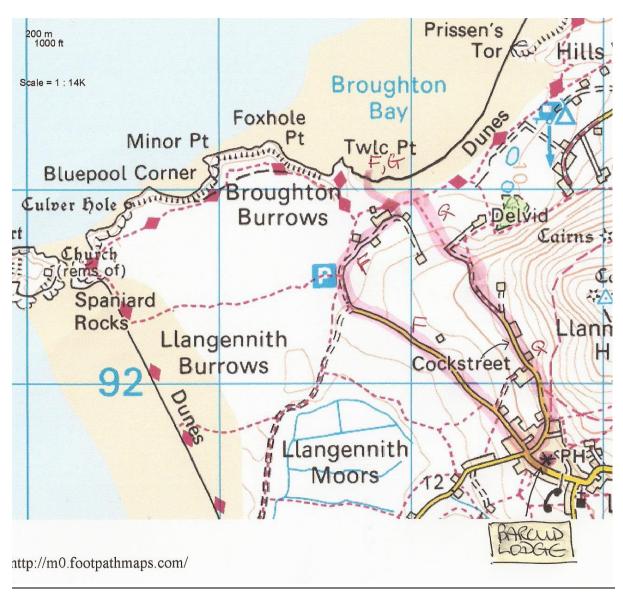
- A. Through Hillend Caravan Park. Turn right out of Barcud Lodge. At the mini roundabout turn left along Moor Lane. Follow this road all the way to Hillend Caravan Park and continue along the road through the caravan park down to the car park where you will see a clearly marked path across the dunes to the beach.
- B. Take the footpath almost directly opposite Barcud Lodge (to the left of the Red House's garden). You are heading, first of all, for Stormy Castle, the house half way up the hill that you can see from the Living Room in Barcud Lodge. You will go through a field, down some steep stone

steps, and past two enclosures where there are often Alpacas. The path then skirts the garden of a house called College Mill and leads down to a stream. Turn left when you come to the stream and shortly afterwards you can cross the stream by the little footbridge. Follow the path across another couple of fields up the hill to Stormy Castle. The path then takes you along the side of Stormy Castle's garden and out onto the hill via a gate. Turn right and follow the path down the hill to the entrance to the caravan park. Carry on through the caravan park as in A above until you reach the beach.

- C. Walk along Moor Lane towards Hillend (as in A above). When you get to Dollars Cottage (the cottage on your right just before the bend in the road) go through the large gate immediately after Dollars Cottage, then a smaller gate and take the path to your left which runs more or less parallel to the road. Continue through several gates until you come to a large concrete slab which takes you across a stream. Here the path turns right and follows the stream. After going through a couple of fields, the path crosses the stream again (two more gates) and continues a short distance along the other side of the stream. You then reach a junction with another path coming from Broughton, and here you turn left. Continue until you reach a gate and the other side of the gate the path turns right, following the stream, down to the beach at Diles Lake.
- D. Turn right out of Barcud Lodge and go straight on at the mini roundabout down Burrows Lane towards Broughton Caravan Park. When you get to the cattle grid at the park entrance take the path on the left. The path is fairly straight and is the path described as coming from Broughton in C above. When you reach the gate by the stream, turn right following the path down the side of the stream until you reach the beach at Diles Lake.

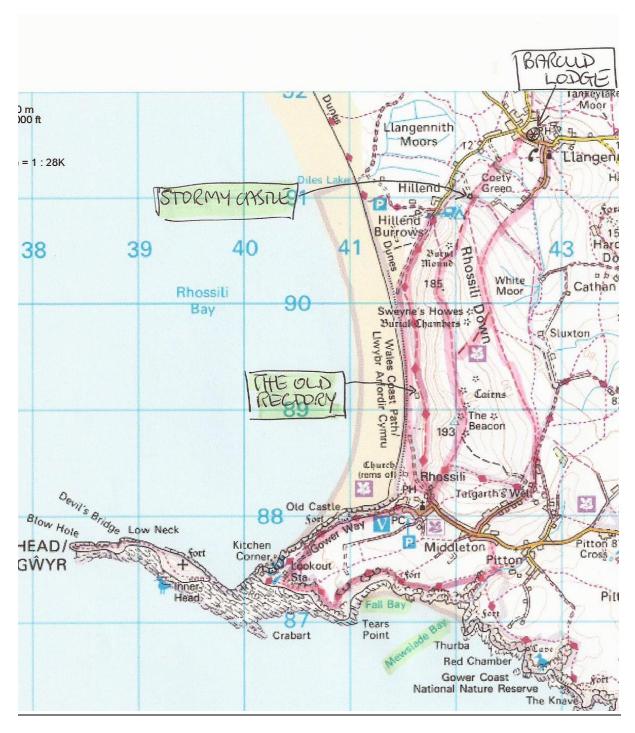
 To return using this path (or C above) from the beach look for the substantial stream crossing the beach and take the Burry Holmes side of it. You cannot cross the stream inland.
- E. Go straight on at the mini roundabout towards Broughton Caravan Park (as in D above). Continue along this road, past the cattle grid at the entrance to Broughton Caravan Park and continue until you reach the Visitors Car Park. Cross the car park towards the children's play area and there is a path immediately to the left of the playpark. Follow this path which goes up and down over several dunes before reaching the beach at Spaniards Rocks close to Burry Holmes.

Broughton Bay Beach



- F. Go straight on at the mini roundabout towards Broughton Caravan Park. Cross the cattle grid and follow the main road through the caravan park, past the shop and sales office. Turn left after the sales office. The path leads to a small green and a ramp down to the beach. Note: At high tide the beach is sometimes not accessible from the ramp.
- G. Turn right at the mini roundabout and follow the lane (Cock Street) keeping left at the green. The lane eventually becomes an unmade road. Go through the gate and continue along the track until it turns right. Here you leave the track and go straight on through the gates taking the footpath across 2 fields heading directly towards the sea. There are several gates to go through but the path is virtually straight. Turn left when you reach the Coast Path and within a few metres you will come to the green (as in F above) and the ramp down to the sea.

Circular Walk to Rhossili – about 3.0 hours



The map above shows the walk to Rhossili and includes the additional walk to Mewslade.

Take the footpath up to Stormy Castle (see B above). From Stormy Castle you will see a path (not shown on the OS Map) that leads up to the ridge just beyond 'Burnt Mound' and then follows the ridge line. Follow the path along the ridge line. You can do a detour off to the right, following a branch down to a WW2 radar station (some concrete slabs and the remains of some buildings) and then back to the main path. From all along the ridge the views are superb. Further along you come to the Trig Point and then path leads down to Rhossili. When the conditions are right paragliders take off from the area on the Rhossili side of the Trig Point.

In Rhossili there are Public Toilets, a very good National Trust Shop, as well as The Worms Head Hotel (we can't recommend it because we've never tried it!) and a couple of cafes which are open in the summer.

An alternative route from Llangennith up to the ridge, avoiding stiles, is to walk up to St Cenydd's church and then take the lane down the RHS of the churchyard. At the end of the lane in Coety Green continue in the same direction along a path, which goes to the left of the farm, along a stream bed (bridleway) and onto Rhossili Down. Follow the footpath until you see the large rocks of 'Swyene's Howes iron age burial chambers above the path on your right. Shortly after this you can take a right fork (not shown on the OS Map) up to join the path along the ridge of Rhossili Down as above.

There are three possibilities for the return: (1) along the beach. The path down to the beach is down the side of the Worm's Head Hotel opposite the car park in Rhossili.

- (2) In front of the Old Rectory following the path along the edge of the cliff. Retrace your steps out of Rhossili and before you go through the gate onto the hill, there is a gate on the left leading onto an unmade road to the Old Rectory. Where the track turns right up to the Old Rectory, the footpath continues straight on and leads into Hillend Caravan Park.
- (3) The third option is to take the bridleway which runs behind the Old Rectory but this can be very muddy. Again you have to retrace your steps out of Rhossili and after you go through the gate onto Rhossili Down, there is a path on the left. The path is a bridleway, which passes behind the Old Rectory, and skirts the top boundary of Hillend Caravan Park.

Although you can walk back along the lower paths on the eastern side of Rhossili Down, be warned, the area known as White Moor is very boggy.

If you choose to walk along the beach then return via one of the routes A to C described above (reverse directions). If you use the Old Rectory cliff path or bridleway return from Hillend via the road or the Stormy Castle path as in A and B above.

Circular Walk from Rhossili to Mewslade Bay – about 1.5 to 2.0 hours

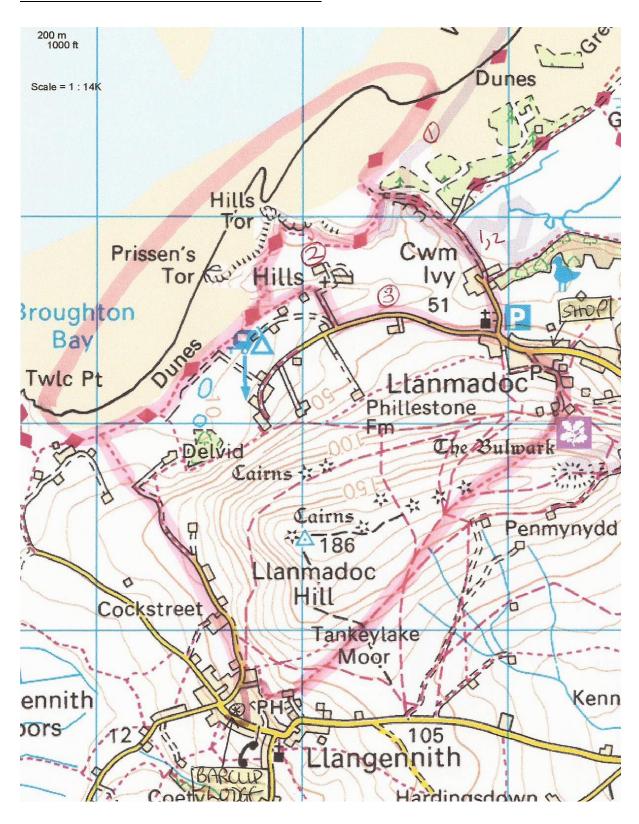
This walk can be combined with the one above to make a long walk – we usually take about 4.5 hours including a lunch stop for the whole walk.

Although Rhossili is only about 3 miles from Llangennith 'as the crow flies' it takes about half an hour by car. Park in the car park by the Worm's Head Hotel (or in the one by the church where there is an honesty box – proceeds go to help support the church). Walk past the National Trust shop and follow the road towards the coastguard lookout point. You will probably want to go to the coastguard lookout but the coast path you are following hugs the wall around the fields on your left; this area is called 'The Vile'. These are strip fields which are thought to be largely unchanged since medieval times. After a short while the path turns left again at the start of Fall Bay. A multitude of rocky peaks and bays can be seen looking in a south westerly direction and one can appreciate the very different coastline of South Gower to the dunes that dominate the Rhossili and Llangennith coastline. Follow the Coast Path above Fall Bay, keeping the field wall immediately to your left. Where Fall Bay ends Mewslade Bay starts and the path takes you away from the sea; note the chapel straight ahead. This is Pitton Methodist Chapel and you will leave the Coast Path before reaching that. There is a deep gorge at the far end of Mewslade Bay and the Coast Path turns right and steeply downhill. This is where you leave the Coast Path and keep to the boundary wall you have been following. Your path is still pointing at the chapel. After a short while where the main path turns right there is a path to your (sharp) left and a gate. Go through the gate (the sign on the other side says 'Mewslade') and follow the path to the main road at Middleton. Turn left onto the main road – be careful as the footpath is intermittent – and after about 100 metres take the road on the right hand side (signposted to the Rhossili Activity Centre) up the hill. Just before the Activity Centre/YHA Hostel there is a bridleway which forks left; if you are returning to Rhossili take this, but if walking back to Llangennith keep straight on past the centre.

<u>To return to Rhossili</u> Follow the bridleway until you meet a footpath which goes past a small reservoir and skirts the fields on your left. When you meet the main path that comes down from the trig point at the top of Rhossili Down, turn left and follow the path down to the village.

To return to Llangennith Continue further on the track after the Activity Centre and when you reach Fernhill Farm take the bridleway on the left which climbs and crosses Rhossili Down in the direction of Llangennith. The path can be a bit difficult to follow, but if in doubt keep heading towards the large rocks of Sweynes Howes burial chambers, visible part way down the slope of Rhossili Down. The path passes just below the rocks. Return to Llangennith off the hill either via Stormy Castle (see A above) or Coety Green. Try to avoid the area marked as White Moor as it can be very boggy all year round.

<u>Circular Walk to LLanmadoc – about 2 – 2.5 hours</u>



LLanmadoc has a good Community Shop which sells a wide variety of groceries and serves tea (including herbal), good coffee and home-made cakes. It also has a Post Office and toilet.

Leave the house turn left and left again, walking up the lane beside our garden to the green and take the road to the right which goes up between the houses to the foot of the hill. Take the path which goes up beside the steps up to the last house and takes you onto the hill. Follow the path to the right which is level for a short distance and then rises steeply to meet the main path (a bridleway). The hill is criss-crossed with paths, but we suggest you turn right and follow the bridleway which goes gently uphill to the top of the ridge where a path (another bridleway) forks left and takes you down to Llanmadoc. The shop is just off the main road through the village.

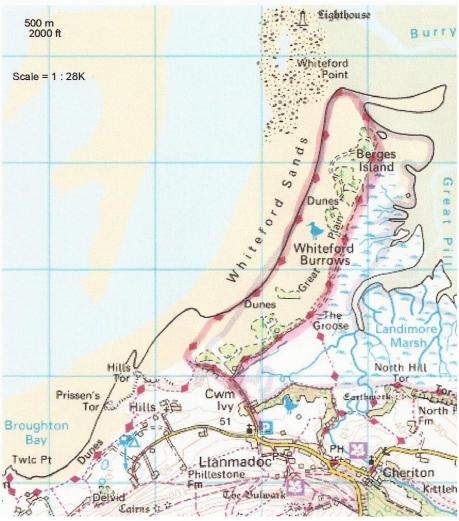
For the return we suggest three options. The first two options leave Llanmadoc by walking down the road, keeping right at the Church, past the 'honesty box' car park and down to Cwm Ivy. At the end of the road you go through a gate which restricts vehicular access to the National Trust area. Continue straight along the track, past a gate on the right, until you reach a second gate. Go through the gate and here you choose which route to take. You can carry straight on towards the sea/estuary and then turn left and walk back along the beach to Broughton, returning to Llangennith by either route F or G above.

Alternatively you can turn left immediately after the gate. Follow the path which goes up quite steeply through a small wood. This is the coastal path and at the top you are on the cliffs above the beach. Follow the path which quite soon descends to the edge of Whitford Bay Caravan Park. Continue along the coastal path to Broughton and then return to Llangennith by either routes For G above.

The third option is the quickest way back. Leave Llanmadoc along the road leading to the Church and keep left at the Church. Follow the road until you reach the entrance to the Christian Youth Camp where you turn right taking the road into the camp. Where the road bends right at the bottom of the hill, there is a gate on the left which takes you on to the coast path back to Broughton. Return to Llangennith by either routes F or G above.

<u>Circular Walk to Whiteford Point and the Lighthouse – about 2 hours or 2.5 hours if the tide is low enough to reach the lighthouse</u>

This walk can be combined with the one above to make a long walk – minimum 4 hours unless you walk very quickly!

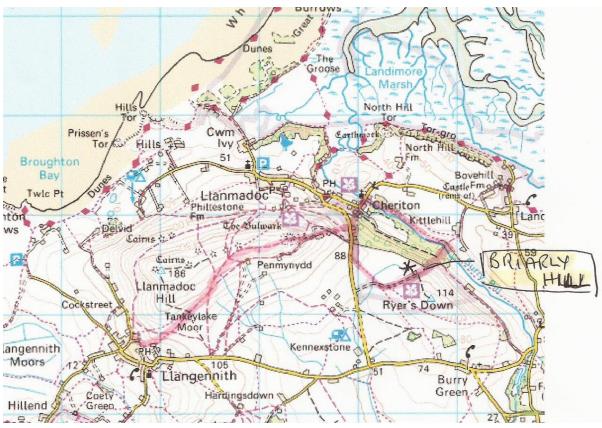


Drive to Llanmadoc and turn left at the T junction opposite the Brittania Inn. Continue through the village passing the Community Shop on your right and bear right down the hill towards Cwm Ivy, leaving the church to your left. Park in the car park immediately on your right and put your money (£1) in the honesty box.

Walk down the hill along the road and in Cwm Ivy go through the gate to the right of Cwm Ivy Court Farm. Walk down this lane until the tarmac ends, noting the track through the woods through the gate to your right which is how you will return. Carry on straight ahead until you come to a gate on your right. Go through this and the path leads to the beach. The fenced enclosure to your left is where a large flock of Lapwings nest every year. When you reach the beach turn right towards Whiteford Point and the Lighthouse. Walk to the point, you can walk to the lighthouse if the tide is low, and go round the other side of the point. After a short while you will see a small wood on the right, very close to the beach, and the return path is on the far (eastern) side of the trees. Before picking up the return path, you may wish to visit the bird hide which is a little further on beyond a couple of small copses. It looks over Llanrhidian Sands and the marshes.

The return path follows the eastern side of the wood and then runs along the edge of the marsh. Continue along this path through a gate into Cwm Ivy Woods and at the other end of the woods is a gate where you turn left onto the tarmac lane up to Cwm Ivy and back to the car park.

Circular Walk to Cheriton and Ryers Down



There is a pottery in Cheriton which is well worth a visit (check opening times) — every piece they make is unique due to the salt glaze / wood fire method of firing used.

The first part of the walk is the same as the suggested route to Llanmadoc. Leave the house turn left and left again, walking up the lane beside our garden to the green and keep right between the houses (passing one called Chapel Lodge on the right) and straight up to the foot of the hill. Take the path which goes up the RHS of the last cottage and then straight on up the hill until you meet the main path (bridleway) which is roughly half way up at a 'T' junction. Turn right and follow this path around the east side of Llanmadoc Hill. You are aiming for the Bulwark, ancient fortifications at far end of the ridge. When you get to the Bulwark, continue down the hill past Stormy Castle, a new 'Grand Designs' house (not to be confused with the Stormy Castle on Rhossili Down). You are aiming for a white cottage with three chimneys the other side of the road. You walk down a bridleway which leaves the remains of some old buildings to your right. After crossing the road, take the footpath running down the RHS of the three chimneyed cottage which leads down to Cheriton. When you meet the road in Cheriton turn right and you will find the pottery is opposite the church over the bridge.

Take the path on the right which runs alongside the pottery. This path follows the stream (Burry Pill) and eventually reaches the Llanrhiddian to Llangennith road. We suggest you turn right after about 1km, crossing the stream via a bridleway which climbs up through the woods. Soon after the

bridleway reaches Ryers Down there is a footpath on the right which climbs quite steeply to a house called Briarly Hill (can be quite muddy). Follow this path to Briarly Hill and then walk along the drive until you see a path to the right; it crosses a very small stream/boggy area by a railway sleeper bridge. Enter the field by the stile and then another stile and follow the hedge line (which is on your right). The stile at the far end cannot be seen until you are almost there. Be careful crossing this last stile onto the road and turn right and walk a short distance to the edge of Llanmadoc Hill. Take the first track on your left and this leads to the 'Grand Designs' house you passed on the way out. Return by the same route.