

## 1. A classic ridge straddling the Welsh border

### AT A GLANCE

**Where:** Black Mountains, Brecon Beacons

**Distance:** 10 miles

**Difficulty:** Difficult

**Start:** Car pk next to Llanthony Priory

**Grid Ref:**

SO288278

**Post Code:**

NP7 7NN

**Map:** OS Explorer OL13 Brecon Beacons (eastern area)



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1. From the car park take the exit road past the entrance to the ruined priory on your right. Where the access road bears left, continue straight ahead. Go through a gate and across a field to reach a lane.

2. Walk past the pub on your left. Bear left at the lane junction. Walk up this lane turning left up an enclosed path, following the

course of a small spring. Go through two gates and turn right following a fence on your right. This leads you up-valley contouring the hillside. The path descends to a footpath sign, crosses a stream and then continues to reach Nantygwyddel.

3. Stay on the waymarked bridleway. This continues >

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bypassing above Sychtre Farm to reach Cae-waun. From here a footpath continues and reaches Penyworlod Farm. The path briefly enters the farmyard from where you take the access road down to the lane.

**4.** Take the track opposite, crossing the bridge over the river

and then climbing uphill along a rather badly maintained sunken path to reach a lane. Turn left along the lane passing The Vision Farm.

**5.** Just past the farm take the signed path on your right. This path leads steeply through some trees to reach open >

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country at a stile. The temptation is to go straight uphill but better to turn right to follow the clear path which zigzags uphill. The path gains height quickly and easily, and soon levels out.

**6.** Reaching open moorland there are a few places where there is a choice of path. Stay on the most obvious and continue ahead to reach the main Offa's Dyke Path on the ridge.

**7.** Turn right. You now have over four miles of easy high-level walking. The views are good in both directions. You need to pass two trig columns.

**8.** After passing the second trig point the ridge path loses about 200 feet in altitude to reach a junction of paths. Turn sharp right here to follow the path descending obliquely across the hillside, initially with a wall on your left.

**9.** Continue the descent to reach an information board.

Turn left here and descend through woods. The path leads across a field to reach the gate you passed through at the start of the walk. Go through the gate and back to the start.

**POINTS OF INTEREST**

- **Llanthony Priory (pictured) is situated in the heart of the beautiful Vale of Ewyas. The 900-year-old remains used to be one of the great monasteries of Wales, and the decorated stonework still looks incredible to this day.**

- **The famous novel, *On the Black Hill* by Bruce Chatwin, is largely set in the Vale of Ewyas and surrounds. Many place names from here are used in the book, including the farmhouse where the main characters live, called The Vision (you'll pass a farm with the same name on this walk).**

- Walk courtesy of [www.walkingbritain.co.uk](http://www.walkingbritain.co.uk)