

Moel Famau & Jubilee Tower from Cilcain

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Route Summary



Moel Famau (1,800ft) and Jubilee Tower with a taste of Offa's Dyke Path. A route away from the madding crowds. Jubilee Tower was begun in 1810 to commemorate the golden jubilee of George III but was never completed. A storm in 1862 destroyed most of the tower, with only the base remaining today.

Route Overview



Category: Walking

Length: 10.580 km / 6.61 mi

Last Modified: 19th September 2020

Difficulty: Medium

Rating: Unrated

Surface: Moderate

Date Published: 18th September 2020

Description



Moel Famau (the highest peak in both the Clwydian Hills Area of Outstanding Beauty 1,800ft/554m) and

Jubilee Tower with a taste of Offa's Dyke Path.

This is a route away from the madding crowds that flock to Moel Famau most weekends. Although it is only 6.6 miles, some short steep sections may be challenging if you are not too fit. Stop for a breather if you need to and admire the wonderful views across the Vale of Clwyd to Snowdon and Cader Idris.

History

Jubilee Tower was built by 1817 to commemorate the golden jubilee of George III but was never completed. A storm in 1862 destroyed most of the tower, with only the base remaining today. In 1969 the Denbigh and Flint branch of the Country Landowners' Association decided to tidy up the ruins and secure them from further deterioration.

In 2013, work to expose one of the original bastions was carried out. The bastion chosen was the one most likely to still be intact underneath the rubble and earth. A cylindrical stairway was uncovered, which is now open for access for the first time since 1815. The stonework now visible is the original and was repointed with lime mortar.



The Walk

Start from the tourist car parks 1/2 mile due west of Cilcain village.

Head east towards Cilcain. Pass a track on your left and then go through a gate on your right (1) before a whitehouse with solar pannels. Follow the line of the hedge heading south-south-east, pass through another gate into woods and descent the steep path to a gate. Don't go through the gate, but turn right (2) along a level path.

You come to a small bungalow. Go round to the right and then left through a gate heading south-west with woods on your left. At the end of the woods turn left (3) dropping down to Nant Gain, cross the stream and join the main trackn (4) towards the Cilcain 4 Reservoir.

The track forks right to The Garth farmhouse. Keep left, but look to your right to see the ruins of what was probably a small lime kiln.

Pass through the small gate (5) as you reach the entrance to the Cilcain 4 Reservoir.

Follow the path around the south side of the reservoir forking left to an ancient wooden bridge across the stream (a scaffold plank!). Cross the bridge and turn left (6) up the hill, a little steep for 175 yards. As the track level continues the gentle climb for 600 yards heading south and then south-west for another 600 yards. You come to a junction where you can turn left or right. Head right (7) to join the Offa's Dyke path.

Cross the stile onto the dyke (8) and turn left heading south-east towards Moel Famau. As you get near to the summit the path becomes steep (9), but it's in good condition and in parts, steps have been created. Enjoy the views when you stop for a breather!

If you haven't been here before you will want to climb onto the tower and enjoy the 360° views. On a good day you can see Blackpool tower.


Having explored the ruin, find the track heading due east from the tower (10). The path drops steeply on loose shale (remember "footwear with good grip") and heads into forest.

After 3/4 mile you turn left to join a forestry track (11). After a further 3/4 mile the track comes to a clearing. Follow the path in front of you (12) to a gate and join a grass path turning right (13), downhill. Pass through a gate and carry on to join a farm track where you turn sharp left (14). Pass a cottage (the Castell, 15) and carry on enjoying views of Cilcain village on your right.


Follow the route until you came to a track to your left. Take the stile (15) opposite this track, turning right across fields. You will come to the old Cilcain water pumping station (16). Turn left onto the road walking uphill to a white cottage. Walk across their driveway (17) to the left of the cottage and pass through a gate. Climb the hill rejoining the route you arrived on, returning to the car parks.

9.2020.


Waypoints

 (53.16948; -3.26037)



 (53.16590; -3.26583)



 (53.15529; -3.26016)



 (53.15435; -3.25629)




 (53.15450; -3.25460)




 (53.15588; -3.24825)



 (53.16619; -3.23754)



 (53.16620; -3.23792)



