

# 1 Through Park Wood to Rhôs Fawr, finishing via Pwll-y-Wrach Falls

**Start** Main Talgarth Car Park GR SO 153 337  
**Distance** 8 miles / 12km  
**Classification** Moderate to Hard

## START

Walk back out of the main entrance to the car park and turn left towards the town centre. Take the first right, Heol Las, and keep straight ahead to merge with Regent St. Turn right onto this and then immediately left to drop down a riverside path to another road. Turn right onto this and then left onto a waymarked footpath and follow this to a footbridge, which you cross, to continue up Brook Lane to a t-junction. Turn right to the gates of St. Gwendoline's Church and keep right, with the graveyard to your left, to continue to a fork (1).

**1** Turn left and left again to walk uphill past some bungalows to a gate. Go through and go through the gate on the left to walk straight up a field with the hedge to your right. Continue in the same direction, eventually crossing the middle of a field to a stile at the bottom of Park Wood.

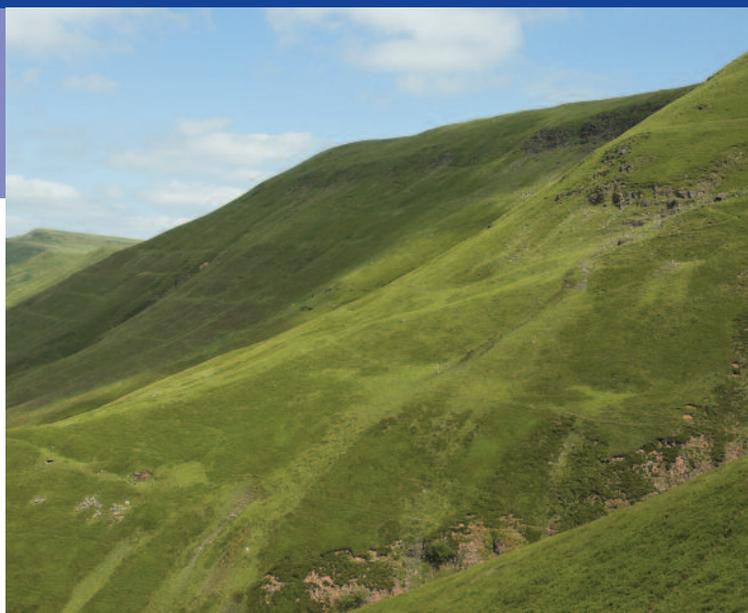
**2** Cross this and keep ahead to join a broad forest track (2).

Turn left onto this (For Walk 2 keep straight ahead here onto another waymarked footpath) and follow it for 1.5 miles ignoring any forks to the left. This leads to a gate and a stile that leads onto a meadow.

Keep straight ahead to join a clear grassy track and follow this upwards and slightly left to a gate that leads onto a broad track. Follow this to a gate that leads onto Felindre Common. Go through and fork immediately right to walk uphill with the hedge on your right. Continue to the very top and keep straight ahead to join a lane (3)

**3** Turn left to follow this through a gate (Or to shorten the walk and join Walk 2, turn right) and out onto open common land, where you need to fork half right to follow a faint track diagonally uphill towards the high point of the common, where it runs alongside a wall. Keep straight ahead to drop slightly and then turn right to ford a stream in a gully and follow a clear path to the right.

(To ascend the mountains overhead, turn left upon reaching the stream and then turn right to walk uphill, crossing the stream before meeting the main track up Y Das. Return by following the main track all the way down to join the route by a gate). Follow the contouring path around the foot of the mountain to a gate and stile (soon to be removed?).



**4** Turn right to drop for a few paces to a gate and then turn left to continue on a contouring path. Stay on this until it crosses the head of a deep gully and turn right immediately ahead of the gully, to drop to a stile. Follow the grassy track down past a house (small nature reserve, ask permission and a visit may be granted.)

**5** Cross the road and cross a stile ahead. Keep right to a waymark post and then turn right, with the hedge to the right, to cross a footbridge. Now keep straight ahead, crossing a succession of stiles, until the path drops to cross a tree-lined track by a large stone post. Bear right here and aim for woodland in the bottom right hand corner of the field, where a stile leads onto a lane (4).

**6** Turn right and walk along the road for 100 yards to a stile on the left. Cross this and follow the woodland path alongside the stream, ignoring any tracks that head right uphill. Continue over a stile and down steps to Pwll-y-Wrach (Witches Pool). Care is needed here as it is often muddy and slippery. From here, continue downstream to a path junction and bear right, onto a well-surfaced path with a handrail that leads up to a lane. Turn left onto this to drop back down into Talgarth.



## LOOK OUT FOR

### Old Gwernyfed

A manor house had been built on this site by the late medieval times but was re-built in the 17th Century. There were formal gardens and fishponds laid out behind the house. The stone pillars that survive from this time shows where the gated entrance to the manor house stood. Today the entrance to the Jacobean manor house along with its attached farm buildings is past two stone lions that stand guard, paws raised to catch the unwary visitor. Look down the tree lined driveway to the front of the house, on either side there are round towers that may have been store rooms but the upper parts dovescotes, a source of fresh meat in winter. The west wing of the house is a ruin, the result of a fire in the 1780s.

### Pwll y Wrach

The ancient and secluded woodland of Pwll-y-Wrach (The Witches Pool) hides many a secret, apart from the birds and wild animals. Access to this nature reserve is easy with footpaths from the car park to the pool itself. However it can become very muddy under foot. Watch for the blue flash of a kingfisher; listen to the call of the birds; the scuttling of the animals in the undergrowth, even the bark of an otter. Breathe in the heady fragrance of the wild flowers and you soon begin to imagine St Gwendoline herself, the patron saint of Talgarth Church, bathing in Pwll-y-Wrach. But there's a darker secret. Was it the screech of a jay you heard or the scream of a witch? Was the pool used in medieval times and after to decide whether witches were innocent or guilty? What do you think?

