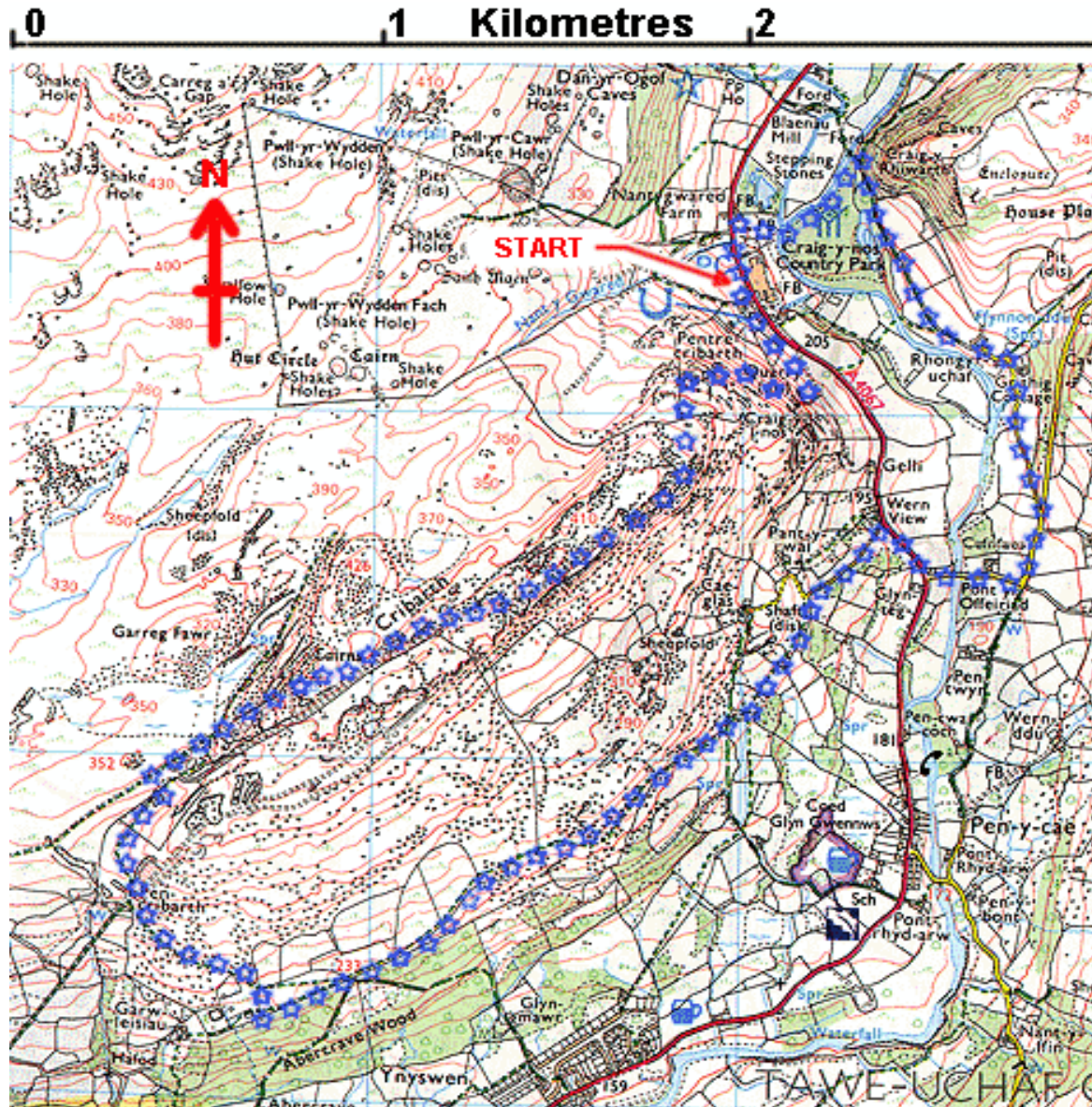


# ALONG THE CRIBARTH RIDGE

Starting from Craig-y-nos Castle, Grid Ref: SN 840153

A 8.5km (5.3 miles) circular walk from Craig-y-nos Castle through a Country Park and along a mountain ridge.  
Grade: moderate. Time: about 3 hours. Requires good navigation skills.



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## ALONG THE CRIBARTH RIDGE

### Starting from Craig-y-nos Castle, Grid Ref: SN 840153

**Please Note:** Although this is a 'Moderate' walk there is a section of the ascent that is steep. Although it can be taken slowly part of the descent needs care. Walking Boots and Waterproofs are essential on this journey, as is a compass and the ability to use it.



Craig-y-Nos Castle

From the fountain in the parking area of Craig-y-nos Castle, head North through an archway and then bend right around the Northern castle walls. Descend to a grassy path again heading North, to access Craig-y-nos Country Park. At the confluence of the rivers Tawe and Llynfell, you will see an oak bridge.



Bridge over River Tawe

Turn right across this bridge and then left to walk upstream by the river Tawe until you arrive at a wooden fence by a notice-board. (This is the Northern end of the Country Park). Turn right here and, after a wooden gate, right again onto a wide stony bridleway heading South.

Continue along the bridleway for 600 metres (this can be muddy) to reach a metal gate by a cottage and a metalled country road. Keep to the road to pass Grithig Cottage on your left and, 40 metres further on behind some plastic bollards, you will see the outflow of Ogof Ffynnon Ddu on your right.

Carry on along this road, and at a 'T' junction with another road, turn right. After 200 metres this road swings right at an electricity pole with a street-light on it. Take the right turn and cross the River Tawe at Pont yr Offeiriad to arrive at the A4067.

Turn right at the main road and walk North-Westerly for 200 metres (there is no pavement, but you can walk on the grass verge). Cross the road and then go left at a minor road that ascends towards Pant-y-Wal farm.

300 metres up the hill, and before you reach the farm, look for a way-marked stile next to an iron gate on the left, as the road turns sharply right (see picture on right). Cross the stile and follow an obvious track South-Westerly, keeping a fence on your left. Keep going straight on across the fields through 3 gates/stiles and at the 4<sup>th</sup> stile, cross and bear immediately right, heading for a stone wall with a wooden gate in it.



Stile before Pant-y-Wal Farm

## ALONG THE CRIBARTH RIDGE

Keep straight on here and ascend a short rise to a way-marked stile. Cross the stile and hand-rail a stone wall on your left for 250 metres to another stile. Cross and turn right across some duck-boarding, heading North, to come to two way-marker posts at footpath junctions.

Continue heading Northwest up an obvious track (although this can be obscured by high bracken in late summer) and where this becomes wider it was the tramway to an old Silca Sand Quarry.

At a fork in the grassy tramway, bear right. You will see a stile and finger-post to your left. Bear right again onto a steep tramway which was an Inclined Plane used to bring limestone from Cribarth mountain to Abercrave. Bear left at a short way-marker (do not ascend the incline as it is private land) heading Northwest.

On your left you can see more remains of Silica Sand Quarries. Pass behind a large rock and on a clear day look at the superb views down the Swansea Valley.

The path now contours around the hillside to arrive at Pant-y-Ffyrch and the ruin of an old drovers inn. Cross a stile and head in the direction of signpost saying 'Open Hill', continuing Northwards towards a mound of rocks.

After 60 metres, and just before the rocks, you will come to another grassy tramway. Turn right and follow this for 450 metres up another steeply inclined plane, heading NE, up the SW flank of the Cribarth mountain.

At the top of the incline continue walking north-east, following sheep tracks to the summit of Cribarth (423 metres, 1387 ft.), where there is a cairn and white trig-point. Pause to look at the spectacular panoramic views before descending from the summit in a North-Easterly direction to meet a stone wall with a wire fence on the top.



Former Silica Sand Quarry



Pant-y-Ffyrch & Cribarth Summit