



6.5km / 4 miles

Strenuous ■

Navigation ■

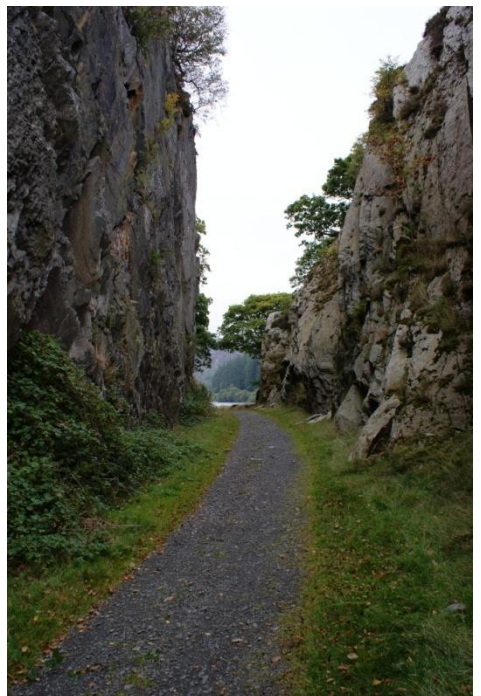
Technicality ■

The Craig Goch Reservoir Dam

Upper Elan Valley

An enjoyable and easy going stroll around one of the beautiful reservoirs of the Elan Valley. This is picture postcard country...

This walk takes in some stunning views without the long uphill slogs that are usually required to achieve them. The path is wide and flat so it is fine for a pushchair, if you just do a 'there and back' between the dams. If you have two cars you can park one at the lower car park to save walking back. There are several options which are outlined below.



① START / FINISH

SN 8947 6866 Leaving your car in the car park on the far side of the dam, at the bottom of Craig Goch Reservoir, head south through the wooden gate – just beyond the toilet block on the left (making a last minute visit if required!)

Make sure you take in the views of the dam you have just driven over as you leave. The track heads slowly down the valley alongside the Penyarreg Reservoir. There is great scenery and a few interesting features along the way, before reaching the Penyarreg Dam.



INFO:



Distance: 4 miles

Total Ascent: 100m

Time: 1.5hrs

Start / Finish: Craig Goch Reservoir car park
(SN 8947 6866)

Nearest Town:
Rhayader

Terrain: Wide, flat footpath turning steep and narrow if continued to the end

Maps: OS Explorer (1:25000) no. 200

Nearest Outdoor Store: Llanidloes

2 SN 9115 6753 At the Penygarreg Dam, after taking in the grandeur of the Victorian engineering, you have a few options.

Pushchair friendly option with one car:

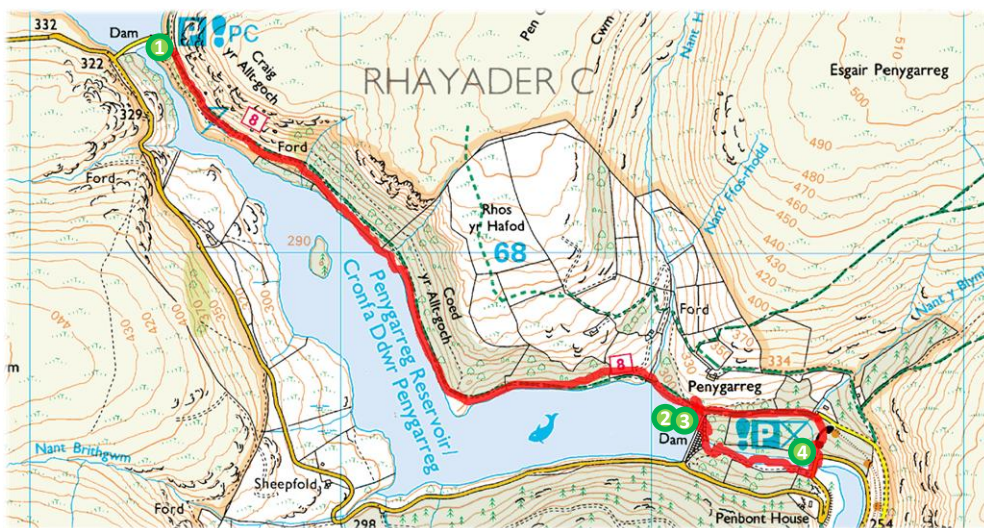
- 1) Head back along the same path you came on – the only option if you only have one car.

Pushchair friendly options with two cars:

- 2) Head through the large wooden gate where the track continues. This then joins a road, which meets up with the main road through the Elan Valley. Turning right on this main road will take you to the lower car park. You can park one car here in advance to save you walking back. Although pushchair friendly this would obviously involve walking on the road and adds another 3-4km to the walk.
- 3) If you have a willing volunteer from your party who can head down the valley on the route detailed below (option 4), they can pick up the second car at the lower car park and drive to meet you where the track becomes a road.

Main Route continued (not pushchair friendly):

- 4) The final option is to head into the valley and along to the lower car park. From here you can either return the way you came or collect a second car if you have one. Details for this part of the walk follow below...



3 SN 9115 6753 Go through the small wooden gate on the right and down in front of the dam to the valley floor, following the 'Elan Woodland Walk' arrows. Part way down this path there is a quick diversion to the right which takes you up close to the dam (EV02) – well worth doing if the water is weiring over (small children and animals should be kept on a tight leash!) Cross the wooden footbridge at the bottom of the valley (EV04) and turn left still following the woodland walk. When you reach a main track turn left onto it (EV05). This takes you to the lower car park where there is a lovely spot for a picnic. If you have forgotten your sandwiches (or pretend you have if you need an excuse!) you can head right out of the car park and up the main road to the signposted Penbont House Tea Rooms for some refreshments.

4 SN 9144 6734 If you are not fortunate enough to have a second car pre parked in the lower car park you can return along the main road (past the tea rooms). Alternatively you can turn left out of the car park and cross the stone bridge. Then go through the wooden gate next to the phone box (EV07) following 'Elan Estate Walk 2/3'. Just before you reach a wooden footbridge there is a path heading steeply up the side of the valley to meet a stile (EV09) and a road. Turn left here and follow the track to the top of the dam, from which you can follow the track you originally came in on to the top car park.

Gradient Profile

