



Llyn Crafnant trail



Enjoy an inspiring walk with a wealth of different habitats. The stunning setting of this lake, which is surrounded by forests and mountains, makes it a fabulous walk at any time of the year. The wide mix of habitats gives you the chance to spot many different birds as you enjoy the scenery.

Directions to the start of the trail

From the town of Trefriw (reached via the B5106 from Conwy to Betws-y-Coed), turn right into the lane opposite the Fairy Falls pub (signposted to Llanrhychwyn, Llyn Geirionydd, Llyn Crafnant and Llyn Cowlyd). Turn left at the fork and follow Crafnant river for about two miles. Park in the Forestry Commission car park in the woods on the right (£1 fee).



Buzzard

Trail information

Distance: 3 miles
Time: 3 hours
Grid reference (start): SH 756 618
Landranger 115 Explorer OL17



This is an easy walk, but there are two stiles.

Facilities

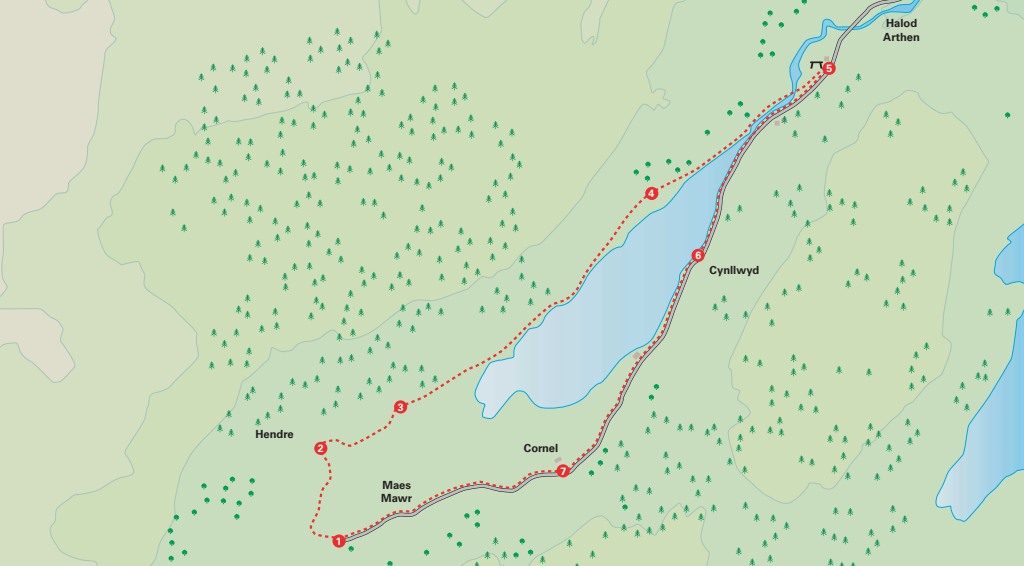
at beginning/end of trail



Photographs

Llyn Crafnant (The
Photolibrary Wales)
Buzzard by Mike Lane
Long-tailed tit by Steve Knell
Great crested grebe and chick
by Richard Revels
Mallard by Laurie Campbell
(all rspb-images.com)

Look out for...



The route

- 1** Leave the car park and turn right along the tarmac road with the river on your right. Look out for dippers feeding on insect larvae and freshwater shrimps in the fast-flowing River Crafnant.
- 2** If you have binoculars, scan them over the water as Llyn Crafnant comes into view. You may see water birds, including great crested grebes, and dabbling ducks, such as mallards.
- 3** Continue the circular walk, keeping the lake on your right. You will soon reach signs to the café (open 8 am–6 pm during the summer). (If you leave the main path to enter the café, look out for the UK's smallest bird, the goldcrest, in the low-hanging fir trees.)
- 4** Eventually, the tarmac path becomes an un-metalled track. Go through the gate and the path bears right. You are now at the top end of the lake. As you approach the first of two white painted summerhouses, stop to scan the tops of the ferns for the striking colours of stonechats. Listen, too, for their sharp,

loud call, which gives them their name. The path becomes quite steep here as it takes you through the pine trees. Cross the stile and meet up with the forest track.

- 5** You are now on the opposite side of the lake. From here, you have magnificent views of the surrounding mountains. Listen for the mewing call of buzzards, which can often be seen soaring overhead.
- 6** As you walk through the mixed woodland, look out for seed- and insect-eating birds, such as goldcrests, chaffinches, coal tits and small social flocks of long-tailed tits. Scan the tree trunks carefully for the mouse-like movements of treecreepers.

- 7** As you reach the end of the track, cross the river and make your way back along the tarmac road to the car park. If you have a picnic at the benches on the far side of the car park, you will be rewarded with close-up views of chaffinches as they come to investigate your sandwiches!



Long-tailed tit



Great crested grebe and chick



Mallard