

exploring

# dyserth

denbighshire



# introduction

The village of Dyserth lies below the slopes of Moel Hiraddug - designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty since 1985. Its wildflower spaces harbour such rarities as white violets and orchids while overhead you may see buzzards wheeling and, if you are very lucky, peregrine falcons.

The name Dyserth has evolved from the original Dissard which means "hermit's cell" and was mentioned in the Domesday Book in 1086. The village is steeped in history and the remnants of previous dwellers are dotted around the landscape - from an ancient pre-Roman hill fort on the top of Moel Hiraddug to the industrial heritage of quarries and lime kilns.

Visitors have been coming to Dyserth since the 18th century to enjoy the fresh air as it is situated several hundred feet above sea level. The village is renowned for its spectacular waterfall which cascades seventy feet from the River Fyddion in the centre of the village near the church. The waterfall shop and café is open March to October.

This booklet contains five walks in and around Dyserth. We hope you enjoy them.

**Wear appropriate footwear, take refreshments and weather clothing.**

**Remember Countryside Code:  
RESPECT - PROTECT - ENJOY**

**Special note: please take extra care in wet conditions as the paths can be slippery in places.**

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## credits

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Published by Denbighshire County Council, Tourism Department, [www.denbighshire.gov.uk](http://www.denbighshire.gov.uk) The council gratefully acknowledges the help of Dyserth Environmental Group, local residents and businesses. This leaflet was made possible by European Objective One funding. If you have any queries or suggestions regarding this leaflet please email [dcc\\_tourism@denbighshire.gov.uk](mailto:dcc_tourism@denbighshire.gov.uk) or telephone: 01824 708112.

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# marian mills walk

**Start point:** Anglia car park.

**Grid ref:** SJ 062 792.

**Approximate distance:** 2 miles.

**Time required:** about 1.5 hours.

**Terrain:** uneven; stout footwear required.

Turn left onto main road. Follow road uphill for approximately 250metres. Opposite phone box, cross to ladder stile alongside Trecastell Farm. Over stile, veer slightly left and follow path with hedge on left, farm on right.

Cross field ahead to gate in centre of hedge. Cross next field straight across, heading for a small rickety gate in middle of hedge. Through gate bear slightly right to foot-bridge, leading to lane opposite the ruined Grove Mill (working until 1912). Continue left along the lane to a wide bend, taking the right fork (signposted Marian Cwm). Pass a trout farm on the left. The remains of "The Marian Mills" soon appear. A century ago the mills, including tearooms, were a popular tourist attraction; now "Felin Fawr" still has its original wheel shaft, but only the watercourse for the smaller "Felin Fach" remains.

At the T-junction turn right (signposted Offa's Dyke Path). On the left is an enclosed reservoir and pumping station where the spring Ffynnon Asa(ph) joins the river Ffyddion. Follow path slightly uphill, cross two stiles to reach a farm gate, taking the stile on the left to follow Offa's Dyke Path across an open field. Cross the final stile into the road and turn right. The road now takes you back to Dyserth and the main road. At the T-junction turn right down the hill and back to the car park.



*Felin Fawr.*

# hottia walk

**Start point:** car park off Thomas Avenue.

**Grid ref:** SJ 059 789.

**Approximate distance:** 2.5 miles.

**Time required:** about 1 hour.

**Terrain:** entirely along roads. Pushchair is possible but there are no pavements and care is needed along narrow roads. Wear comfortable shoes.

Turn right out of the car-park and into Thomas Avenue, past the school. Turn left up a short slope and turn right onto Lower Foel Road. Continue to the end of this road to the crossroads. Turn left and walk up the gentle yet lengthy gradient. On the right, after the houses there is a convenient seat which looks out over the foot of the Vale of Clwyd towards Snowdonia. Continue up the slope, turning right past the 17th century farm of Pentre Cwm and its converted barn. The road narrows and you will need to stand close to one side when traffic approaches.

At the next crossroads turn right. Continue down the road, past the old farm of Tan Llan and to the crossroads where you turn right. The lane is a little wider here but can attract more traffic coming from the A55. The road continues back to Dyserth parallel with Moel Hiraddug on your right.



*View from above Pentre Cwm.*

Passing the farm of Hottia on your left you will swing round to the right towards the start of the houses. Keep on St. Asaph Road as it bends with the fields on your left and walk along until another road joins it from the right at an angle. Turn right up this road (Cwm Road) for about 30 yards. Then on your left between the side of the last bungalow and the grassy bank of the school playing fields there is a foot-path which takes you up onto the Coronation football field. Cross this field and you will find yourself back in the Thomas Avenue car-park.

# circuit of moel hiraddug

**Start point:** Thomas Avenue car park.

**Grid ref:** SJ 059 789.

**Approximate distance:** 3.5 miles.

**Time required:** about 2 hours.

**Terrain:** mixed. Wear walking shoes or boots.

Turn right onto Thomas's Avenue. Pass school and up slope to Lower Foel Road junction and turn right. After about 400 metres just beyond cul-de-sac on right as road dips to the right, take left-hand track towards woods (signed Cwm). Pass through kissing gate and continue along path into woods. Ignore steps up to the left and follow path to second kissing gate. Path now leaves woods and heads through gorse towards open pasture and third kissing gate.

Go through gate and turn left up lane. As lane levels green barns on skyline mark direction you are following. Passing the barns on left, continue down to road junction. Turn left into Marian Cwm. Walk through village and just before large white house on left, look for post box and footpath sign. Follow path to the left (now part of Offa's Dyke long distance path).

Go over a stile and into a rough pasture. Veer left and up hill through gap in fence and head for marker post. Now head

for a second marker and then third. Path now crosses field to stile in bottom left-hand corner. Follow hedge on left to another stile and cross this into an old green lane. Turn left towards farm buildings. Pass farm and follow lane, ignoring footpath sign on either side as lane bends close to lower slopes of Moel Hiraddug.



*Moel Hiraddug.*

Where lane bends sharp right, go through gate on left. Cross field straight ahead to stile in hedge. Over stile and continue ahead to another stile in trees. Cross next field to another stile in hedge opposite; over this onto enclosed pathway. At bottom of this path fourth stile leads onto tarmac lane; turn left. Just before lane bends sharply right there is a footpath straight ahead, the sign hard to spot at low level. Continue down path to lane and turn left towards Dyserth village centre and the car park.

# dyserth walkway and castle site circular

**Start point:** Thomas Avenue car park.

**Grid ref:** SJ 059 789.

**Approximate distance:** 2.5 miles.

**Time required:** about 1.5 hours.

**Terrain:** a low-level ramble through woods fields and lanes. Wear sensible shoes.

Leave the car park by the gate onto the playing field and head right towards gates onto High Street. Cross the road into Bryn-y-Felin to the left of the garage and follow the lane to its end. Ignore the steps down to the left, leading to the waterfall and bear right past the white cottage, down steps to a footbridge. Cross the bridge and continue uphill.

Follow the path through the woods to a stile. Continue to a second stile by Rookery Nook cottage and turn right onto road. Follow road up to T-junction and turn right. After about 30 metres climb up the steps on the left to a kissing gate entering an SSSI meadow, Maes Hiraddug. Cross the meadow veering left, to an old stone bridge. Cross the bridge and turn sharp right (ignoring the kissing-gate), down to the walkway. Turn right again and continue along the walkway for approximately 0.5 mile.

Turn off the walkway, to the right, at a sign to The Site of Dyserth Castle. The path leads down steps and veers left with a meadow to the right. At a fork in the path (left leads to the old quarry which the castle once stood above) take the right fork following a fence, to a stile and metal gate. Go over the stile onto a track. At the top of the rise, turn left and go over another stile. Follow a narrow path and cross a third stile into a field.



Cross the field near hedge on left, to reach a fourth stile in the corner. Turn right into the lane and cross bridge over the walkway. Turn right at junction and follow the lane to turn left at Rookery Nook and join original outward route.



# dyserth circular walk

**Start point:** public car park adjacent to Dyserth Waterfall. Toilets available in car park (seasonal opening).

**Grid ref:** SJ 056 793, O.S. Explorer Map 264 Vale of Clwyd.

**Distance:** about 7 miles or 11.2 kms.

**Time required:** about 4.5 hours

**Terrain:** some steep hills on certain sections, so a medium level of fitness is required.

Leave car park and walk towards road, turn left and after a short distance turn left immediately after tea shop and climb series of steps turning left at top where it meets path. Alternatively, turn left before tea shop and after paying a small toll head towards waterfall through metal gates and climb up the stone steps on left side of falls following path up the hill passing view point with bench seat overlooking village. Continue on path descending down some wooden steps onto a path and turn left walking through trees towards a stile. Cross stile and turn right climbing steep bank into an open field where there is a way marker post. Climb over stile at corner of the wood and follow fenced path along the edge of woodland towards Pandy Lane. Cross lane and climb up metal steps and through kissing

gate immediately opposite, entering an open field managed by the Wildlife Trust. Head across field diagonally to the right towards gate and stile.



*Stone bridge over Dyserth-Prestatyn Walkway.*

Cross stone railway bridge and turn sharp right ignoring kissing gate and take steps down to join the Dyserth to Prestatyn Walkway turning right towards Prestatyn. Look out for the low level caves in the limestone rock on the right (grilles fitted to prevent unauthorised entry). Follow walkway until reaching wooden gate and the old railway goods shed (stone building) on the left.

Turn right on path directly opposite the stone building and after a few yards go through kissing gate following steep path and steps up Craig Fawr which is owned by the National Trust and designated open access land. Ignore kissing gate on left halfway up this path. On reaching top of steps, the first of several way marker posts will become visible showing the direction of the route leading to the road at Bryniau. Alternatively, you may wish to deviate from the normal route and climb to the white trig point on the summit of Craig Fawr (153m/502ft) with its spectacular views of the coastline, Snowdonia and Anglesey.



*Dyserth Waterfall.*

Leave National Trust land through kissing gate and turn left on road at Mount House. Follow the road and look for some stone steps and a stile on the right which is on the Offa's Dyke Path. Continue on Offa's Dyke Path crossing stiles in four fields before dropping down a steep bank onto road. Turn left and follow road looking out for caves on right. After a short distance take first stile on right and cross through two fields towards Trelawnyd road with Tŷ Newydd farm on right (this section can be very muddy).



Turn right on road and after about 50m take stile on other side of road. Continue to next stile and turn right onto a country lane descending down to the river. Leave Offa's Dyke path when reaching the hairpin bend and follow lane passing Grove Mill on the left. Continue along the lane for about half a mile ignoring all stiles until you reach road and turn right at road junction. After a short distance take path on left at side of white bungalow and follow fenced path to a driveway and turn right. Just before gate to private house cross stile on right and follow path through gorse bushes to ladder stile and open field. Cross three fields with ladder stiles until you reach metal gate on farm track.

Turn right and follow track until you reach stile on right side before reaching farm. Cross three fields with stiles and descend steps onto the lane. Opposite is a stile leading into Church Wood crossing two more stiles before entering field.

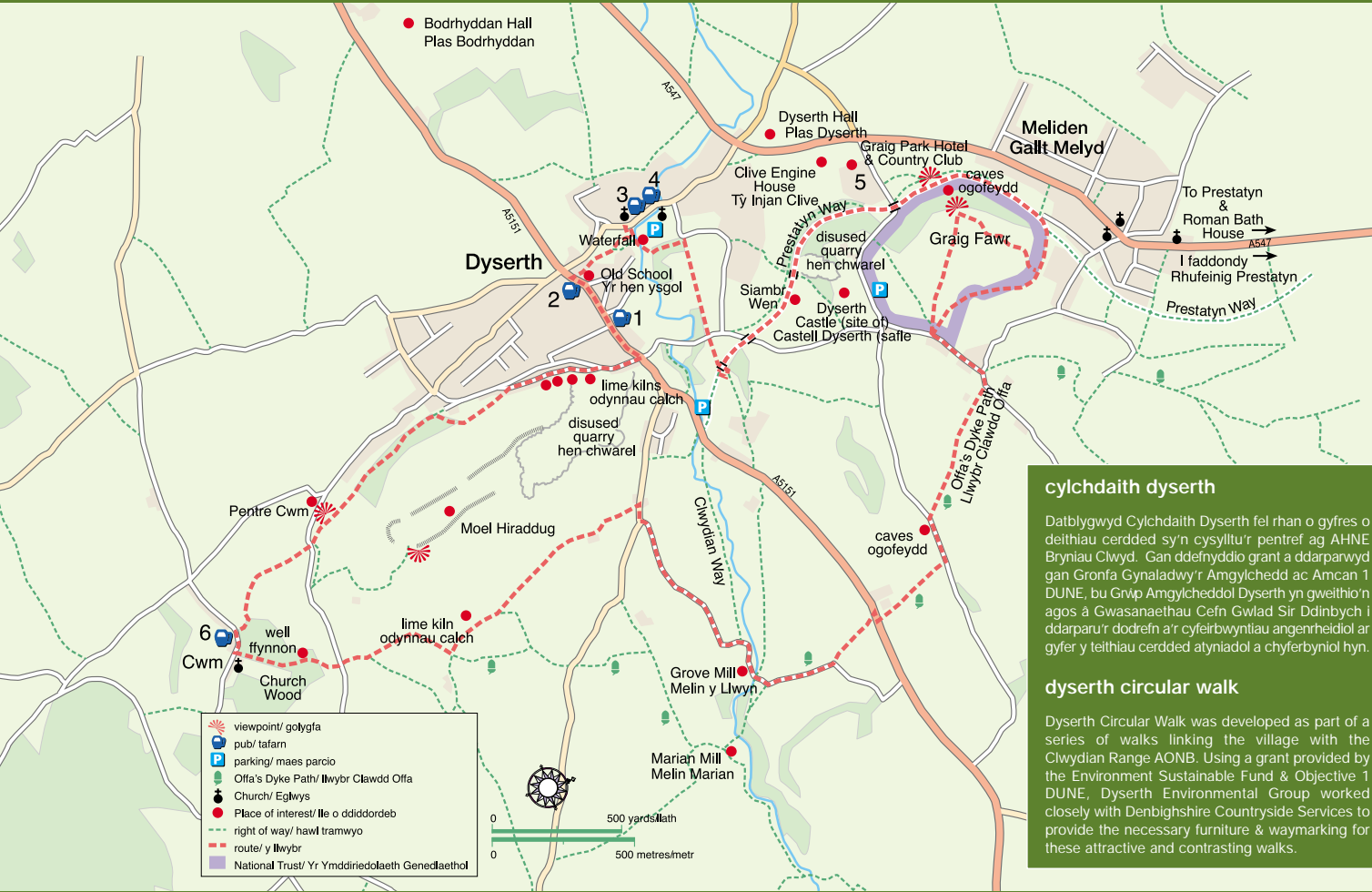
You are now approaching the village of Cwm and the stile is located in the left hand corner of the field near church. Turn right on road passing the Blue Lion pub on left. After a short distance take stile on the right towards two more stiles leading to an open field. Walk up middle of steep banked field looking for gate and stile at top of hill. Take time out to admire the wonderful views across the Vale of Clwyd towards Snowdonia.

Cross another field and climb over stile onto lane. Opposite is a metal kissing gate with a path leading along the lower western slopes of Moel Hiraddug. Follow path through woodland passing through kissing gate until you reach end of wood and take path and steps on right leading back onto the road. On reaching the road turn right heading towards Dyserth.

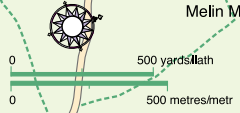
Turn left at main road and walk through village until you reach the Cross Keys pub on left. Immediately opposite is a footpath leading towards the falls. Follow this path until you see some stone steps on the left which will lead you down to the main road near tea shop. Turn right at tea shop and back to car park.

*View from Moel Hiraddug.*





- viewpoint/ golygfa
- pub/ tafarn
- parking/ maes parcio
- Ofra's Dyke Path/ llwybr Clawdd Offa
- Church/ Eglwys
- Place of interest/ lle o ddiddordeb
- right of way/ hawl tramwyo
- route/ y llwybr
- National Trust/ Yr Ymddiriedolaeth Genedlaethol



### cylchdaith dyserth

Datblygwyd Cylchdaith Dyserth fel rhan o gyfres o deithiau cerdded sy'n cysylltu'r pentref ag AHNE Bryniau Clwyd. Gan ddefnyddio grant a ddarparwyd gan Gronfa Gynladwy'r Amgylchedd ac Amcan 1 DUNE, bu Gŵip Amgylcheddol Dyserth yn gweithio'n agos â Gwasanaethau Cefn Gwlad Sir Ddinbych i ddarparu'r dodrefn a'r cyfeirbyntiau angenrheidiol ar gyfer y teithiau cerdded atyniadol a chyferbyniol hyn.

### dyserth circular walk

Dyserth Circular Walk was developed as part of a series of walks linking the village with the Clwydian Range AONB. Using a grant provided by the Environment Sustainable Fund & Objective 1 DUNE, Dyserth Environmental Group worked closely with Denbighshire Countryside Services to provide the necessary furniture & waymarking for these attractive and contrasting walks.