

WARMTH & WONDER

at Garn Farm

Walking Information

**Suggested routes
and ideas...**

Finding your bearings...

This information aims to help you enjoy making the most of exploring the local area on foot, with destination ideas and some suggested routes.

Ordnance Survey Maps of the area are available for you to use – please just remember to put them back in The Barn before you leave. We also link to some walking routes we've tracked using gps apps – you can find links to all our published routes on our website (they are only a guide to the route though, we suggest you still need to use an OS map as well): [**www.warmthandwonder.co.uk/walking-routes/**](http://www.warmthandwonder.co.uk/walking-routes/)

The lie of the land...

There are a number of footpaths in the valley and up to Hatterrall Ridge – some of these paths are better kept than others.

So please do bear in mind that some of the footpaths are not very well maintained and prone to getting overgrown in places – it's the side effect of being a quiet, almost secret, valley.

The routes we suggest are tried and tested, but that doesn't mean they are always clear and none but the main Offa's Dyke path are 'super signed' or used regularly enough to make them unmissable.

We are always happy to give advice if you are unsure.

Be prepared...

Common sense really, but ensure you're prepared before heading out... the hills can be misleading and the weather can change rapidly – and it's always colder up on the ridge than it is down here. We recommend **long trousers** and **walking boots** anytime of the year.

It can be helpful to have a pair of **secateurs** in your pocket for clearing brambles on some of the paths (pocket secateurs are provided for your use – in the kitchen walk-in cupboard).

Also please bear in mind that **not all dogs are friendly**, particularly farm dogs. Having said that most respond to being firm and having a stick waved at them, so it can help to be prepared.

On site at Garn Farm

A map of Garn Farm shows the land and indicates footpaths, as well as **good spots for views, sunsets and campfires**. You are welcome to explore and follow the trails. Please ask if you'd like to know where to find signs of badgers and owls. There are also books with ideas for nature-based games and activities.

Clodock and Longtown

Clodock is a short walk (15 mins) down the road – go down our drive and turn right onto Hunthouse Lane. **The Cornwall Arms** pub is just after the bridge. To get to Longtown either carry on along the road (bearing right at the junction) – or there is a footpath along the river by the bridge, which comes out at another bridge on the Longtown road, where you can either cross the road and carry along a footpath towards the castle or turn right and carry on along the road to get to **The Crown pub** and **Hopes Shop**. Alternatively follow the Merlins Hill route below for a loop.

Merlins Hill / Mynydd Ferddin

Mynydd Ferddin is the hill that Garn Farm is on. There is a footpath up the hill off Hunthouse Lane (turn left out of our drive until you get to Puddlestone Farm & Nursery on the corner – beware of the dogs at this farm (they are usually tied up but can be aggressive, the owners are friendly though!). Once you are up on the hill top you can drop down along footpaths to either **Clodock** or **Longtown**, both of which offer good views up the valley beyond Longtown. See 'Walks Map' for the general routes and for a mapped route see our routes at www.warmthandwonder.co.uk/walking-routes/

Walterstone and Carpenters Arms

There is a nice route over fields, with views towards The Skirrid, to the **Carpenters Arms Pub** in Walterstone. It is under 2 miles and usually takes 40 mins (there are gates to climb over and in sections it gets overgrown, so secateurs can be handy). See the 'Walks Map' for general route. For a mapped route www.warmthandwonder.co.uk/walking-routes/

The Black Hill / Crib y Garth

Just up the valley and well sign posted is **The Black Hill** or Crib y Garth (Cat's Back), which offers a fantastic walk for all ages. On a clear day the views into England are amazing, and from the top you'll start to see the peaks of the highest points of the Black Mountains over Hatterrall Ridge.

By car (20 mins drive)

There is a **car park** (signed by brown picnic signs from Longtown) which takes you up a good part of the hill, from where you can then explore as far up as you want. There is a clear route straight up or bear right half way up the first steep section for a less steep ascent.

Round Loop (5 miles)

As shown on the 'walks map' you can make this a lovely loop by walking all the way along the ridge past the trig point until you get to a footpath on the left (marked by a pile of stones) down into the Olchon Valley, and return to the car park along the road. See the 'Walks Map' for general route. For a mapped route see www.warmthandwonder.co.uk/walking-routes/

Olchon Valley

The Olchon Valley is a lovely spot sheltered on one side by the upper reaches of Hatterrall Ridge and on the other by The Black Hill. The *Black Hill Round Loop* above includes walking along part of the Olchon Valley, but you can drive along it to explore it separately too. Follow directions above to The Black Hill, but rather than turning off for the car park carry along until you get to the horseshoe of the valley and park by the bridge. You can then walk up the bridleway into the upper reaches of the valley. See 'Walks Map' for general route - note a good picnic spot by waterfall.

Black Darren and Red Darren

Up the valley on the opposite side from Garn Farm you can usually make out Black Darren and Red Darren ('Darren' signifies 'edge' in Welsh), on the eastern side of the Hatterrall ridge west of Longtown, a set of landslips formed by glacial action. They offer a fairly steep

but clear walk up to Hatterrall Ridge, with fantastic views into England from the parking area alone.

By car (15 mins drive)

Head to Longtown, past the castle and school, and then on leaving the village take the first left onto the 'Mountain Road'. Follow this down and up, over the cattle grid and along until you get to a parking area (look out for stone information sign). From the car park you can explore either Red and Black Darren. Our favourite is to go up between the two and bear left up Black Darren. You can then go back the way you came or...

Round Loop (5 miles)

As shown on the 'walks map' you can make this a lovely loop by continuing and walking all the way up to the Hatterrall ridge, joining the Offa's Dyke path for a while before turning right off it at a stone marked 'Darren' and following the winding path down the Red Darren side and returning to the car park. See a mapped route of this loop see our routes at www.warmthandwonder.co.uk/walking-routes/

Hatterrall Ridge

Hatterrall Ridge is the main ridge running across the valley from Garn Farm. Along the top runs the border between England and Wales, and the **Offa's Dyke path**. It offers great views into England, and, from the top into, Wales and the rest of the Black Mountains. See the 'Walks Map' for general locations for getting there:

By car

It is possible to drive up to the southern end of the ridge, parking on the side of the road before the gate, and then walking up along the ridge as far as you want. It offers a gentle hill walk with great views into Herefordshire, the Black Mountains, and on a clear day down to Newport and Bristol Channel.

On foot

It is possible to walk from Garn Farm up to Hatterrall Ridge, and there are a number of footpaths up. Our favourite is the following route which takes you part way up – high enough for the views but not to the very top, although does have options to extend it to the very top.

Round Loop (6 miles) – From Garn Farm towards Hatterrall Ridge this loop takes you on foot part way up towards Hatterrall Ridge, via **Walterstone** and **Oldcastle**, with fine views into England along the old green lane, before dropping back down to **Clodock** and back to Garn Farm along the road. It is under 6 miles but with a 1000ft altitude gain/loss, usually takes 4hrs 30mins - although does go nearby two pubs! See a mapped route of this loop at www.warmthandwonder.co.uk/walking-routes/

Vale of Ewyas

The Vale of Ewyas is the next valley west from us and offers popular walking routes. From Garn Farm it is a great walk up and over Hatterrall Ridge to **Llantony Priory** (but it is a long all day walk so be prepared) or a 30 mins drive. There is a car park at the Priory, and a Hotel and Bar in the grounds serving teas/coffees, ales and meals.

Further up the valley is **Capel-Y-Ffin** with its tiny white chapel and semicircle of seven ancient yews (in the graveyard are two gravestones with elegant script carved by the artist Eric Gill, who lived here in the 1920s). Further up the valley is **Gospel Pass** which provides access to **Hay Bluff** and **Lord Hereford's Knob** (Twmpa), both offering the ultimate panorama.

Gaer Loop

The Gaer Loop in the Black Mountains offers a simple walk for all ages, with a summit at 427m above sea level that sits within an Iron Age hillfort known as Twyn y Gae. Parking available - turn left just after The Queen's Head pub, proceed up hill and you'll find a car park on your right. Under 3 miles. See a mapped route at www.warmthandwonder.co.uk/walking-routes/

Grwyne Fawr Reservoir

The next valley west of the Vale of Ewyas provides access through the **Mynydd Du Forest** and a walk to **Grwyne Fawr Reservoir**. From Garn Farm it's a 45 mins drive to Black Mountain (Mynydd Du) Car Park and Picnic Area (NP7 7LY) and then 60 mins walk up to the redundant reservoir with Victorian dam. Follow footpath up

track to the right. It is also possible to do a longer loop to the highest point in the Black Mountains, **Waun Fach**, before dropping down to the reservoir.

The Skirrid

From Garn Farm you look south towards **The Skirrid** (also known as Holy Mountain or Ysgyryd Fawr) with its distinctive landslip, which is a popular walking destination with car park at its base (the route up can get busy). From Garn Farm it is a 20 mins drive - head towards Abergavenny on the A465, proceeding past turning to Mardy and Abergavenny, take the left for the B4521 and Skenfrith - The Skirrid car park is along this road on the left. Beyond the car park is the **Copper Kettle Tea Room** - 01873 851929 / NP7 8AP.

The Sugar Loaf

Another popular hillwalking destination a little further away towards Abergavenny is **The Sugar Loaf**, which has a range of good routes up, with well maintained footpaths. From Garn Farm it is a 25 mins drive - head towards Abergavenny on the A465. There are lots of routes up and options for parking. A favourite is to use the car park at NP7 7HU near Porth-y-parc.

The Golden Valley

Six great walking routes in the Golden Valley at **Michaelchurch Escley, Peterchurch, Dorstone, Ewyas Harold & Abbey Dore, Hardwicke** and **Snodhill** are available - printed copies are in this folder.

Arthur's Stone & The Golden Valley Route - 5.5 mile loop starting from Dorstone. Arthur's Stone is an atmospheric Neolithic burial chamber set in the hills above the Golden Valley. The tomb has been linked to King Arthur since before the 13th century with CS Lewis being particularly inspired by the area when writing his Chronicles of Narnia; the stone table upon which Aslan the Lion is sacrificed is said to be based upon Arthur's Stone. Merbach Hill offers wonderful views details at www.visitherefordshire.co.uk/see-do/get-active/walking/routes/arthurs-stone-golden-valley

You may also find the **Visit Herefordshire website** helpful too - www.visitherefordshire.co.uk/things-to-do

Walks Map

The Olchon Valley

Nice picnic spot off main footpath by waterfall here

Park here by bridge on side of road

The Black Hill or Crib y Garth (Cat's Back)

Park here

Round loop via Olchon Valley shown by



Black Darren & Red Darren

Park here
Round loop shown by



Longtown, Hopes Shop & The Crown Pub

Clodock & Cornwall Arms Pub

Merlins Hill Round loop via Clodock or Longtown shown by



Garn Farm *

Carpenters Arms Pub Walterstone

Footpath to Walterstone shown by



The Skirrid - off map about here

Car park and café nearby. Routes either straight up or loop via the far side.

Gospel Pass, Hay Bluff and Lord Hereford's Knob

Capel-y-Ffin

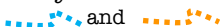
Grwyne Fawr Reservoir

Park here and follow footpath up track to the right

Vale of Ewyras Llanthony Priory Hotel and Bar in grounds

Hatterrall Ridge:

By foot - routes up to Hatterrall Ridge that are usually accessible shown by



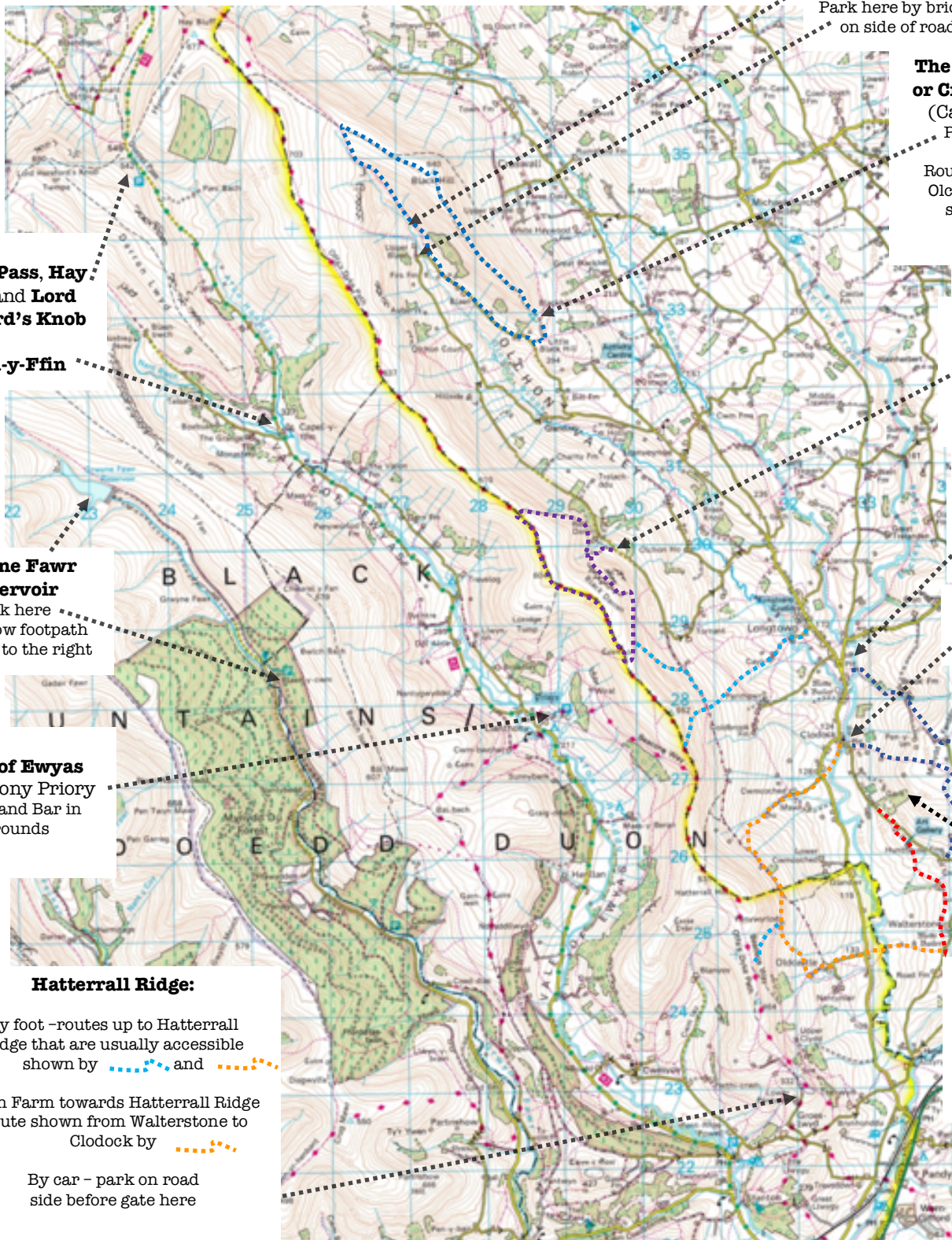
Garn Farm towards Hatterrall Ridge
Route shown from Walterstone to Clodock by



By car - park on road side before gate here

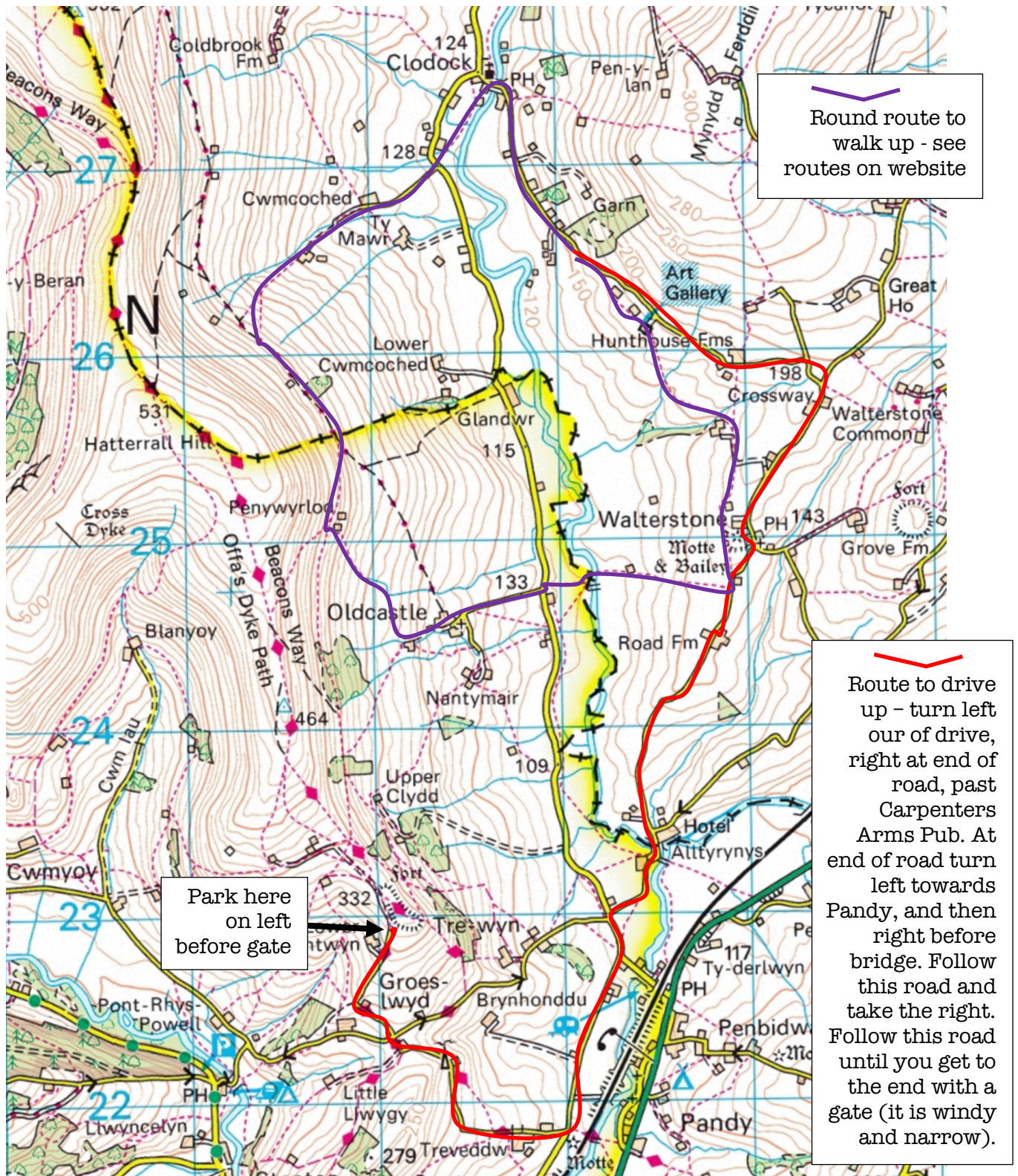
The Sugar Loaf - off map about here

Car park at NP7 7HU
Lots of routes up.



Hatterrall Ridge

Hatterrall Ridge is the main ridge running across the valley from Garn Farm. Along the top runs the border between England and Wales, and the Offa's Dyke path. It offers great views into England, and from the top into Wales and the rest of the Black Mountains.



By car

It is possible to drive up to southern end of Hatterrall Ridge, parking on the side of the road before the gate, and then walking up along the ridge as far as you want. This is easy walking.

On foot

From Garn Farm towards Hatterrall Ridge this route takes you on foot part way up towards Hatterrall Ridge, via Walterstone and Oldcastle, with fine views into England and back to Garn Farm along the old drovers path, before dropping back down to Clodock.

Under 6 miles but with a 1000ft altitude gain/loss - usually takes 4hrs 30mins.

See 'Walks Map' for the general routes and for a mapped route see our routes at www.warmthandwonder.co.uk/walking-routes/

Your suggestions

We will **appreciate your feedback and suggestions** on things to you've done and adventures you have had. And if anything mentioned is dated or changed please do let us know.

Please also do **share your favourite's and tips for future guests** in the little turquoise hardbacked book on the bookshelf.

If you have enjoyed your stay we'd love you to **share your experience with your friends** too – you can find us on most social media channels, so please do tag us when you share:

@warmthandwonder

#warmthandwonder

facebook: @warmthandwonder

www.facebook.com/warmthandwonder

twitter: @warmthandwonder

www.twitter.com/warmthandwonder

instagram: www.instagram.com/warmthandwonder/

a special place to stay overlooking the Black
WARMTH & WONDER
at Garn
www.warmthandwonder.co.uk