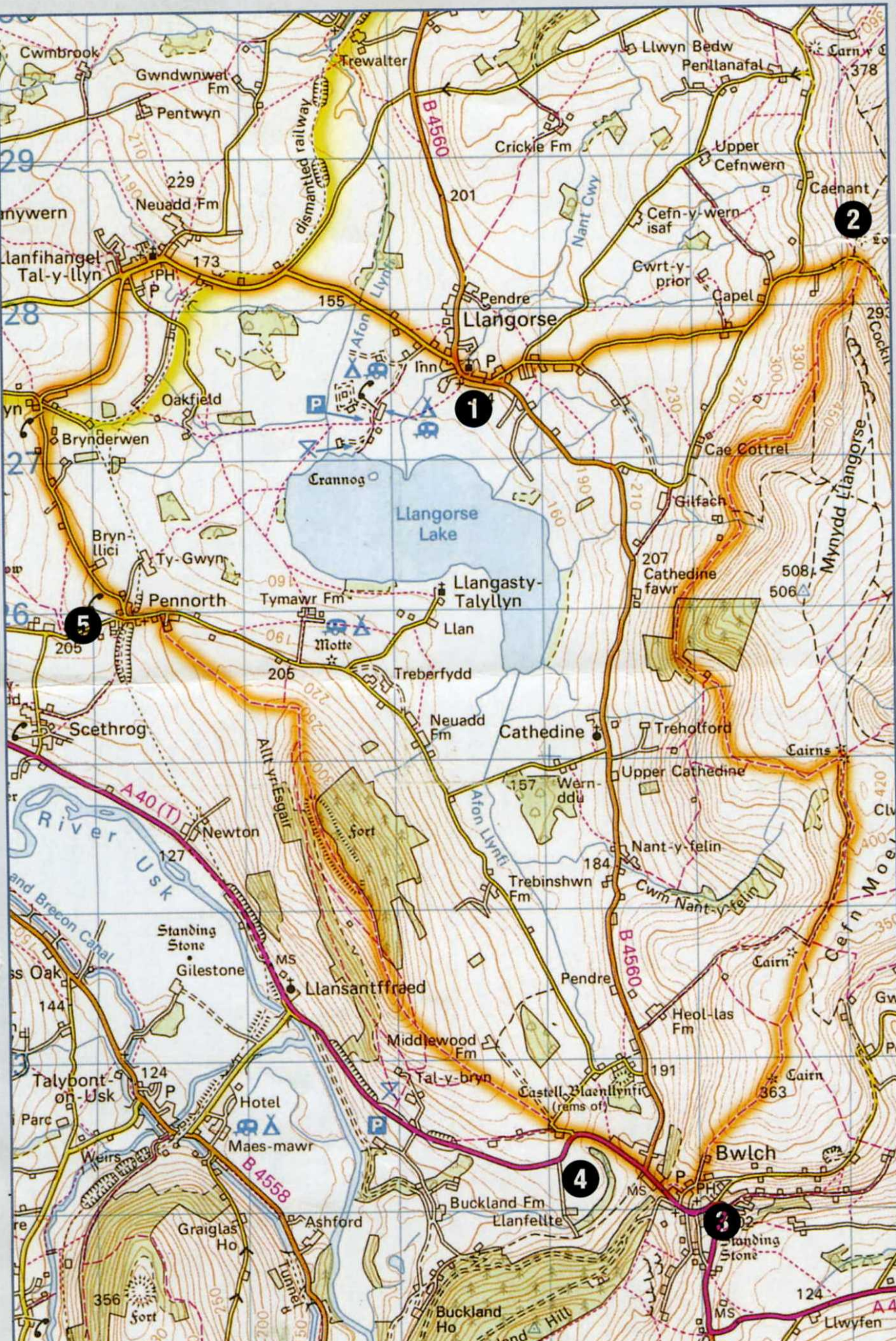


# BLACK MOUNTAINS WALES

**ROUTE STATS: RATING MODERATE DISTANCE 21.1km (13.2miles) TIME 2-4 hours**



**ROUTE STATS: RATING** MODERATE **DISTANCE** 21.1km (13.2miles) **TIME** 2-4 hours

## ESSENTIAL INFO

**Best time to go:** The drier the better. The Mynydd Llangorse hillsides remain rideable even after rain, but on Allt yr Esgair it's trickier when the terrain is sticky.

**Getting there:** Start at the village of Llangorse. The nearest train station is at Abergavenny (16 miles east). If driving in from the M4 (England) on the A40, 21km east of Abergavenny turn off north (signposted Llangorse).

**Car parking:** Free! Just round the corner from the church, on the Llanfihangel Tal-y-llyn road.

**Food and where to stay:** In Llangorse go to the friendly Castle pub for nosh. There's camping at Llangorse. There's also the Mountain biking hostel Bikes & Hikes (tel 01874 610071) or in Brecon the Ty'n-y-Caeau YHA hostel (tel 0870 770 5718).

**Tourist Information:** Abergavenny 01873 857588, Brecon 01874 622485.

**What to take:** Mountain weatherproof gear, snacks (no facilities en route), toolkit including, possibly, spare brake blocks.

**Bike shops:** Brecon Cycle Centre (tel 01874 622651) is central, near the town bridge in Ship St, and does the full monty; hire, repairs, sales, route information.

**Maps:** OS Landranger 161.

## ROUTE INFO

**The start:** The beginning of the Llangorse Lack Loop is in the car park round the corner from the church in Llangorse, grid reference 134276.

➊ **0.00km (0.00 miles)** Head towards the church, turning right on the B4560. Head through the village, passing the Castle pub on the left, and take the first left (unsignposted lane). After 400m bear right and, after a further 500m bear left. Just over 1km later, turn left at the T-junction. After 500m turn right up the hill, and 200m further on stay right again up the steep road to the pass.

➋ **2.7km (1.7 miles)** Turn right off-road onto the bridleway. Instead of heading up to the peak, after 200m (climbing) follow the clear track right that contours round the side of the hill. Follow the bridleway for 2.5km and into the pine stand. Stay on the track (ahead on the bridleway at the signposted track crossroads) to clamber briefly very steeply uphill. Emerging into the open, cross the fields (slow down for sheep), ride to the left of the stone hill house, and continue to the end of the fields. Soon after, bear left steeply uphill towards the horizon (now departing from the lower track). Continue up and over the brow and along to the crossroads in the middle of the saddle. Go right. Follow the stone wall straight ahead along the top of Cefn Moel, continuing at the bridleway crossroads

(where one wall branches off perpendicular right). Descend to Bwlch and continue down through the village to the main A40 at the bottom.

➌ **11.0km (6.9 miles)** Go right with care on the A40 through the village. (To return to Llangorse go right at the war memorial junction SP Talgarth.) After 1km go right on lane SP Pennorth.

➍ **12.2km (7.6 miles)** After 250m (not before), on sharp righthand bend, go left on bridleway uphill (beside venison farm). Continue up to the top of ridge of Allt yr Esgair (and Iron Age fort). Continue with bridleway down northern side. At third gate, bridleway turns sharp L. Take the uppermost track of two to lead gently down to village of Pennorth (ignore bridleway that drops perpendicular down right after 100m).

➎ **16.1km (10.1 miles)** Go L into village then go right in village centre to Tallylyn. In Tallylyn go right to Llanfihangel Tal-y-llyn. There, turn right for Llangorse. And you're back where you started. Pat yourself on the back.

**Total distance 21.1km (13.2 miles)**