

Tremadog

Cwm Silyn

Clogy

Llanberis

Llivedd

Ogwen

Carneddau

Betws y Coed

Welsh Winter

# Cwm Silyn

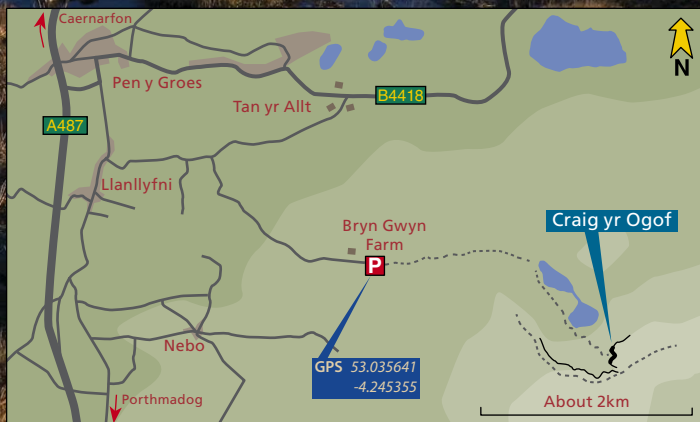
This fine mountain-crag features a wonderful slab of rock and offers a good set of routes across the grade range. The setting is magnificent above the twin tarns of Llynau Cwm Silyn, and the delightful approach walk only adds to the day.

## Approach

From Pen y Groes on the A487 follow signs to Llanllyfni, then towards Tan yr Allt. Ignore the first road on the right ('Tal Garnedd'), take the next right up an unmarked road parallel to a stream. Continue to the end of surfaced road and park through the gate in the field. Don't try and drive up the track towards the crag. From here a pleasant path leads gently up towards the two tarns. Skirt around these and tackle the scree up to the crag.

## Conditions

The main slab faces south west but it is shaded from the sun early in the season. In the summer the crag makes a great afternoon venue when you may well appreciate why sunset ledge got its name. The main slab dries quickly after rain although there is some seepage towards its right-hand side. It is exposed to any wind.



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Cloggy

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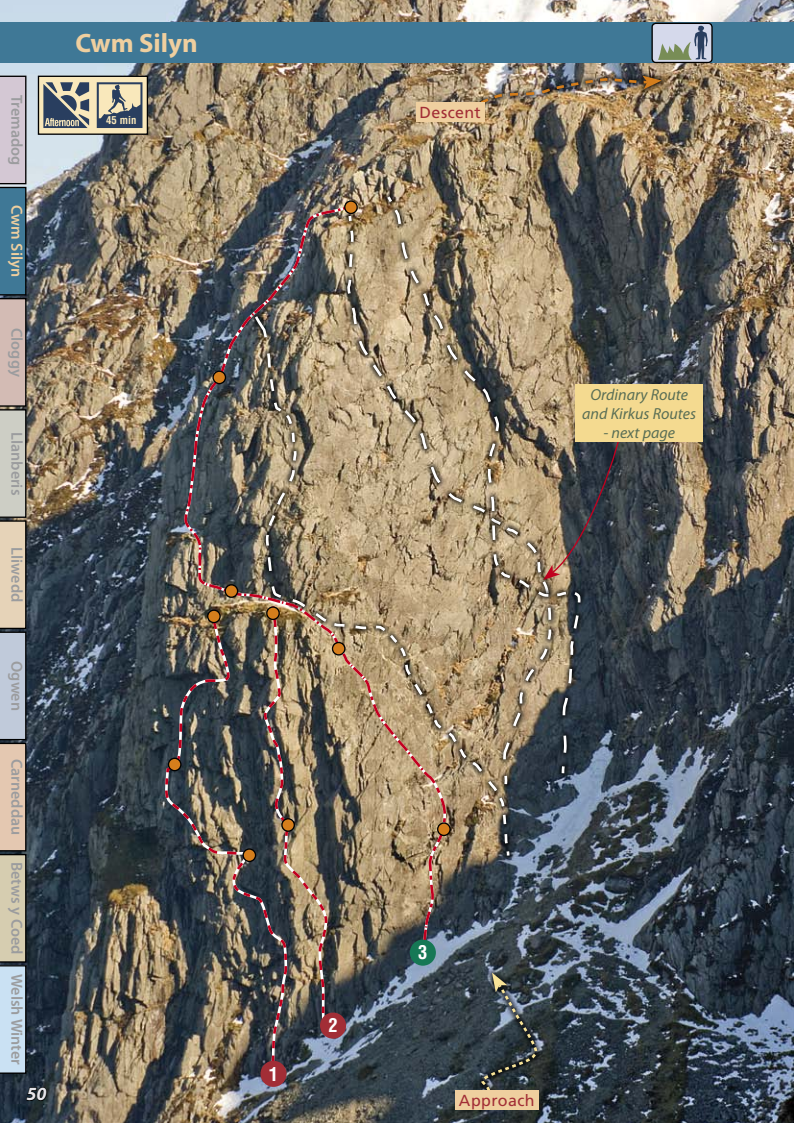
Betws y Coed

Welsh Winter

Descent

Ordinary Route  
and Kirkus Routes  
- next page

Approach



**1 Crucible. . . .**    **E1 5b**

A great route which takes an intricate line through the steeper lower walls of the buttress, culminating in some exposed moves around the big roof.

**1) 4c, 30m.** Climb the central of three grooves to a small overhang. Step right then climb up until you can move back left to a triangular overhang. Move left then climb up and back right above a roof. The stance is up and right.

**2) 5b, 18m.** Traverse leftwards to a block. Climb up the corner to a roof and pull over with difficulty to a ledge up and left. Traverse left to a corner and step down onto a ramp. Follow this across the steep wall to a belay above a groove.

**3) 5a, 30m.** Climb the groove to the top of a block. A rib on the left then leads up until you can move back into the main corner. Continue up this to a rest below the roof, then traverse right across the slab and up to the roof. Drop down right then reach up into a groove which leads to the Sunset Ledge.

FA. B. Ingle, R. Wilson 1963

**2 Jabberwocky**    **E2 5c**

This fine companion to *Crucible* has an excellent second pitch. Start below a short steep groove.

**1) 5a, 30m.** Climb the groove to a ledge then traverse up and left across the wall to an arete. Follow the arete to a ledge.

**2) 5c, 30m.** Step left onto the wall to a spike. Move back right to reach the main groove above. Tricky moves up this lead to a ramp on the left. Climb this to reach a small slab. Cross this to an arete, then move round into a corner which leads to Sunset Ledge.

FA. R. Evans, J. Yates, M. Yates 1970

**Descent from Sunset Ledge** - Either climb *Outside Edge Route* to the summit, or if you are confident, you could reverse solo down *Ordinary Route*.



**Outside Edge Route**

A superb wall with a steep lower section and slabbier rock above. The two routes on the left-hand side are both hard and strenuous, whilst the classic *Outside Edge Route* makes a great day out for those who like less taxing climbing.

**Approach** - See page 49.

**Descent** - From the top of the cliff walk rightwards. If you left gear at the base of the crag then you can drop down the steep gully right of the main cliff. If you didn't then you can enjoy a pleasant walk back home by continuing along the ridge path to join the main approach path.

**3 Outside Edge Route**   **VDiff**

.....   **VDiff**  
One of the great Welsh mountain routes which takes a superb line across the buttress, finishing in a great position on the upper 'outside edge'. Start below a block roughly in the centre of the face.

**1) 18m.** Climb rightwards up a groove below the block. Move right around it and up to a stance

**2) 25m.** Climb up to a ledge then make a rising traverse up left to the arete. Climb this to a ledge and belays.

**3) 18m.** Move up onto Sunset Ledge then walk left for 6m and belay on the left side of the ledge.

**4) 15m.** Make as tricky traverse left around some ribs to gain a groove. Climb this to a ledge and belay.

**5) 25m.** Climb up and left to a corner-crack. Follow this (the crux, maybe a move of 4a) to the crest and a belay ledge.

**6) 35m.** Follow the ridge more easily from here to the top.

FA. J.M. Edwards, C. Palmer 1931



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### Kirkus Route

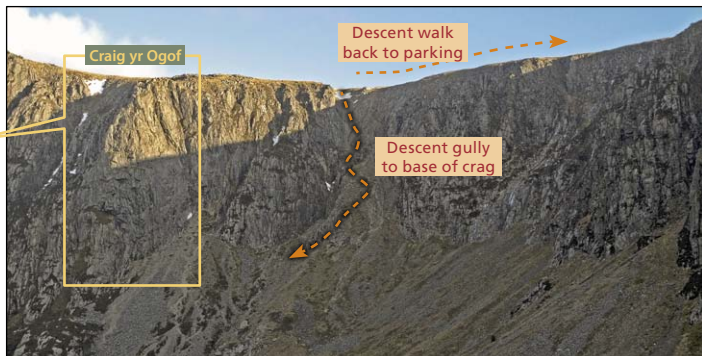
The original route of the slab takes the easiest line up the middle, and further right are a fine pair of harder routes that make the most of the good rock.

**Approach** - See page 49.

**Descent** - From the top of the cliff walk rightwards. If you left gear at the base of the crag then you can drop down the steep gully right of the main cliff. If you didn't then you can enjoy a pleasant walk back home by continuing along the path to join your approach path.

Outside Edge on previous page

Approach



#### 4 Ordinary Route . . . Diff

The original route of the slab is a fine route which can be attempted in all weather by the competent. There are plenty of ledges for extra or different belays if desired. Start towards the right-hand side of the face, by a grassy pedestal.

**1) 30m.** Climb a wall then head left past several ledges to belay at the base of a groove.

**2) 20m.** Continue diagonally leftwards to reach Sunset Ledge. Walk along this to belay below a chimney/groove.

**3) 25m.** Climb the chimney/groove to a slab. Continue up and belay where the angle eases.

**4) 35m.** Climb up leftwards to join *Outside Edge Route*. Follow the crest to the top.

FA. D.Pye and party 1926

#### 5 Kirkus Route . . . VS 4c

The original and easier of the pair gives good sustained climbing that is never desperate. Start as for *Ordinary Route*.

**1) 4c, 30m.** Climb the wall to ledges below a forked diagonal crack. Climb the right-hand branch of this into a niche. Continue to some blocks above to belay.

**2) 4b, 15m.** Climb up a shallow scoop to a groove which leads up and left to a belay on a prominent break.

**3) 4c, 15m.** Climb direct past several overlaps to reach a good stance.

**4) 4c, 20m.** Climb up to a bulging section pass this on the right and easier ground leads to the top.

FA. C.Kirkus, G.McPhee 1931

#### 6 Kirkus Direct HVS 5b

A good companion which is probably less direct than the original route. Start below the right-hand side of the slab.

**1) 5a, 25m.** Climb a short slab (often wet) then a steep section above. Gain and follow a groove which leads up right until you can swing left past flakes and drop down to gain the stance of *Kirkus Route*.

**2) 4c, 18m.** Traverse left to reach a small corner. Climb this then step right onto a rib. Follow a crack and move left into another groove which leads to the mid-height break.

**3) 5b, 40m.** A long pitch. Climb into the corner on the right and follow it to an overhang. Move left to a crack and climb this then step left at a mossy section. Climb the slab left of the corner to the upper break. Move right into a slim groove and climb this to the top.

FA. V.Ridgeway and party 1951