# An Aneathematic Amble

## Date: 14th June 1986

## Distance/Ascent: 33.5 miles, 5770 feet

## Leader: Tony Clark

## Route Description:

* Start at the Rhigos car park at the head of the Rhondda valley (SN 927 031).
* A4061 west to start of Coed Morganydd Way (note 1) at (SN 923 030).
* Forestry tracks along course of Coed Morganydd Way along Craig y Llyn (with diversion to fire tower), Craig y pant, Mynydd Pen-y-cae and Cefn Grug to Bwlch Ffos (note 2).
* Track through forestry south-west to exit forestry on Moel yr Hyrddod at (SN 856 004).
* Track south then south-west along boundary of forestry to corner of forestry at (SS 850 994). South –west across top of Cefn Mawr to cross tracks at edge of forestry at (SS 839 978).
* Raised track south-west down Mynydd Canol past Fforch-dwm Farm then turning north to cross Nant Blaenpelenna at disused mine at (SS 816 973).
* Track then becoming road south, south-west then west to Tonmawr.
* Northwards on track up east side of Cwm Gwenffrwd and through forestry to join main ridge track beside Roman camp at (SS 791 987).
* Across track north then west on paths to tracks past Wenalllt Farm and into Tonna (pub)
* East then north-east along canal to destroyed aqueduct (note 3) across Afon Neath at (SN 803 011) – traversed the pipes (intrepid stuff) (note 4) put in place of aqueduct.
* North-east to A465 (note 5) then north-east along road for short way to (SN 806 015).
* Footpath north-east uphill into forestry and zigzagging uphill via Blaen Llwyd to join the Sarn Helen Roman Road near summit of Penybegwyn at (SN 808 035).
* North-east along Sarn Helen Roman Road on summit ridge of Hirfynydd to (SN 844 078).
* Devious route southwards through forestry passing close to Pant-y-Garthog and eventually joining course of disused mineral railway (note 6) at about (SN 850 051).
* Follow course of disused railway to old mines and A465 at (SN 864 058).
* A465 (note 5) east to road junction at (SN 860 059), minor road across Afon Neath to Blaengwrach and on to Cwmgwrach (and the second pub of the day).
* Track then path then scramble through forestry up Cwm Gwrach past Fforch-goch to junction at (SN 880 045).
* Forestry tracks via (SN 880 044), (SN 884 045), (SN 892 045) past Blaen-nant-hir (SN 893 041) , (SN 902 041) then zigzagging uphill over Y Foel Chwern to Coed Morganydd Way on top of ridge.
* Return eastwards via outward route along Craig y Llyn and Ffaid Gwalciau to join A4061 at (SN 923 030). East for a short way to Rhigos car park.

## Notes (June 2023)

The above route may be difficult to follow on the ground because:

1. The Coed Morganydd Way is no longer marked on OS maps
2. The route goes through a big wind farm which has probably diverted paths
3. Forests may have been felled/planted
4. The aqueduct/pipes at the end of the canal section may not exist
5. There is a new A465 road, the old one has been renumbered to the B4242which should be used instead of the A465.
6. The mineral railway is no longer marked on OS maps

## Weather: Very hot all day – excellent views – with cloud in the valleys at the beginning of the day - warm breeze. For some reason a very long and tiring day – both pub stops were an absolute requirement.

## Participants: Tony Clark, Nick Kaye, Frank Wood, Keith Bennet, Roger Blake, Stephen Plant