8 | Croesor to Tanygrisiau

Cross the river next to a semi-circle of slates depicting cultural and heritage scenes drawn by local schoolchildren. Turn left immediately into the car park, and on to the Croesor café and art gallery.

Turn left up the lane, taking the right fork up the stony track near a row of houses, called Bryn Hyfryd. Continue steadily upwards, through gates and keeping to the wide engineered quarry track. Cross a ladder stile into the workings of Croesor mine, and pass a number of small ruins on the right. Keeping the tip and the remains of the integrated mill to the left, you reach some more ruins on the right. The broad track becomes a narrow path, turning right through the ruins, and wending its way up the hillside, above the mine workings.

Follow the path, paved or stepped in places, tending to the left, always climbing the steep craggy hillside, and becoming a track, which descends to cross the dam of Llyn Croesor.

The path continues straight ahead and not around the lake. It is faint in places, and skirts higher ground on the right – don't go through an inviting gap on the right. Eventually the slate tips of Rhosydd mine are seen ahead down below. The route descends across the open hillside, sometimes boggy, making for a gate in front of a distinctive and solitary flat crag, topped with a line of white quartz. Pass through the gate and make your own way down to Rhosydd mine workings. When you reach the main track running through the site, follow this to the right. The skeletal remains of the workers' barracks lie to your right.

Follow the track which bears left between and below waste tips and past the remains of a massive waterwheel pit on your left. Continue down the steep track down to the lake, Llyn Cwmorthin, on the left, past the remains of houses and the chapel up on the right. Cross the stream as it leaves the lake. Follow the broad track, with the river to your right, to a parking area. Follow the road down until you reach Dolrhedyn Terrace and turn right to re-cross the stream and walk down to the bottom of the hill, over the Ffestiniog railway and to the Lakeside café.

Left: Y Gorlan chapel, Cwmorthin
Below: Fan building, yesterday and today, Croesor Quarry

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