

## Nercwys Forest Flintshire Side

A moderate walk taking in Nercwys Forest and some of the surrounding farmland and paths to the east with great views towards the Clwydians, Liverpool and Cheshire.

Distance: 5 miles or 8.2 km

Map: Explorer 265 or Landranger 117

Start/Finish: Nercwys Forest South Car Park MR: 217577

Time: 2 hrs

Transport: There is no bus service to the exact start of this walk but the Mold/Ruthin service via Graianrhyd and Eryrys 3-4 times a day in either direction takes you to within a mile of the start. There is parking at the Nercwys Forest South car park.



Start at the south car park Nercwys Forest, which has plenty of space and some information boards and maps, including explaining the multi-purpose nature of some of the tracks (ie cycling and horse-riding).

1. Walk through the gate and up the forest road for approximately 100 meters to a small forest path on the left. This is before the rather more obvious stony multi-purpose track a bit further on, on the left (and which you come back along). Follow the path through the trees and eventually right (through an often muddy bit). Then turn left along the multi-purpose track. Alternatively, you could avoid the muddy section by taking either of the next two multi-

purpose tracks on the left, which get you to the same point. Follow the track up hill for several hundred meters until there is another track on the left. This leads to Llyn Ochyn, a sort of dried up marshy lake, which looks a bit primeval and interesting from a wildlife point of view. It is quite atmospheric on a summer evening. The path curves back on to the path you left a short while earlier. Turn left and down hill. Ignore the crossing path left and right. At a ruin of an old farm house there are four tracks. Take the second left and then immediately right to climb to a trig point with a fantastic panoramic view west and east. After admiring the view go down and round the hill back onto the track, turn right almost back on yourself at the bottom to cross a stile with a sign reminding you to put dogs on a lead, and go into the field.

2. Angle diagonally right up the field just right of the knoll ahead then down towards another knoll. Go over the left shoulder of that second knoll and on towards a stile into the road. There is another stile further up just by a pond, either will do. Depending upon which one you took either turn left or go straight on through a gate and across the garden of a bungalow to another stile. Go over a stile along a track keeping to the left boundary to another stile. Cross that and pass a barn on the left to another stile into a small paddock field and over another stile out of that field. Go straight on to another stile into the next field then past a big oak tree to another stile on the left. The path goes down through gorse until it reaches a track, which leads to the Ramblers hostel. Go up that track a short way and cross a stile just to the left of the entrance to the grounds of the hostel. Follow that path around the grounds of the hostel and to the left to another stile. Keep on slightly downhill angling right through some undergrowth to another stile. Go over that and angle up to another stile into a wild garden.

3. Go over that stile and then another to pass a lovely small lake, which is usually inhabited by some form of water-bird such as moorhen or grebe. Walk on through the forest down to cross a stile back in to farm fields aiming for the farm ahead. Cross a metal stile, go between the farm buildings and down the farm track to the road ahead.

4. At this point you may go one of two ways. There is a footpath directly ahead accessed by a stile mounted on a metal gate. Keeping to the right field boundary there is a rickety metal gate some 100 meters down on the right, which you need to get through. It opens with difficulty. It is to be hoped that a stile will be placed here in due course. From that turn left immediately through another well-mounted metal gate, down the left side of the field to another metal stile giving access to a right angle turn in a farm track. Turn right to the lane some 50 meters further on. Alternatively, to avoid the difficult gate mentioned, turn right at the first gate off the previous lane and walk along that lane until the next lane on the left. Go down that to meet the aforementioned farm track, where it emerges onto that lane. The sign at the track says: Friesland Farm.

5. Opposite the track to Friesland Farm go through the gate into the field. Keep to the left field boundary. Cross the next stile and on to another stile with steps giving access to a lane. Cross the lane, ahead there is a small bridge

and stile. Cross those and into the next field. Keep straight on with the field boundary on your right. Towards the end of the field angle slightly left to a gate and stile opposite, which gives access to a stony track.

6. At the track there are again two alternatives. For a slightly shorter return to the car park turn right up the track to a lane, which has a T junction opposite. To the left of the junction is a diagonal path up through the forest. Follow this for several hundred meters. It crosses the multi purpose track and the forestry track either of which return you directly to the car park.

7. To keep on the full walk turn left at the stony track (point 6 above) and down to a lane. Turn right at the lane, passing two houses on the left. About 100 meters after the second house there is a footpath sign on the right. There is a stile but the track beside it is open save for a temporary gate, which you can step round. Go along the track through a gate by another stile on the left – but keep straight on. Eventually there is another gate and stile on the right. Go over the stile and angle left along the left hand field boundary to another stile, over that and on to an elaborate metal bridge and stile giving access to another lane. Although there is a footpath sign indicating straight on down the track to a farm you have to turn right here up the increasingly steep hill.

8. At the T-junction go across the road to a stile and path. Over the stile turn left along the fence, the path gradually angles right, up through the forest where it joins the multi-use path. Turn left and follow that up to the forestry track. Go straight across the track to another track opposite and up that for a short distance to another path on the left. Turn left and the path winds round and up to a viewing point. After taking in the views of Flintshire and Cheshire follow the track on and down to the forestry track again. Turn right and back to the car park.