



## 58<sup>th</sup> Across Wales Walk “COVID-19 Special: 2” 4<sup>th</sup> September 2021

As you may be aware, last year we operated a cut-down AWW in compliance with the regulations prevailing at that time. This year, despite the easing of restrictions, certain resources which we would normally use are not available to us in their usual form. Accordingly, we have decided to operate a further, revised version of last years' successful “Covid-Special”, as outlined below:

In summary, this is what we can offer:

- Participation in the 58<sup>th</sup> Across Wales Walk on the usual route: 45 miles within an 18 hour time limit.
- Opportunities for camping close to the start at Anchor on both Friday and Saturday nights.
- Drinking water at checkpoints, but using your own cup. Other refreshments such as tea, coffee, biscuits and cake may be available but entrants must primarily rely only upon their own food supplies, either carried, previously dropped, or provided by their own support.

Unfortunately the following features of a ‘normal’ Across Wales Walk will not be provided:

- Transfer of walkers gear at any stage.
- Evacuation of retirees from checkpoints.
- Accommodation at Clun or Aberystwyth.
- Coach transport to the start at Anchor, from the finish at Clarach, or from Aberystwyth to Anchor or Clun.

So, in simple terms, we’re providing the opportunity to take part in the core walk but with reduced support from the Organisers. As a consequence, places will be strictly limited to experienced entrants satisfying the following criteria:

- Runners and walkers who have previously successfully completed at least one Across Wales Walk in recent years.
- ‘Doubblers’ who have previously successfully completed a double crossing.
- Entrants who are in good health and not exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, however minor, and must not have health vulnerabilities, or be in self-isolation at the time of the event.
- Entrants who have received both vaccinations against COVID-19.

Please understand that limiting participation to experienced entrants is primarily to minimise the need for evacuation of retirees from the route, a service which we are unable to provide unless in an emergency.

## Start at Anchor Bridge

As defined above, the start will take place as normal from the border at Anchor Bridge.

**IMPORTANT:** extra care must be taken whilst driving within two miles of the start as walkers, principally doublers, may be walking the route or bivvying on the verges of the roads. So, please, no 'rally-style' dashes to Anchor Bridge. Noise must also be kept to a minimum. Entrants' cars must not be left parked on the road or verges in the vicinity of Anchor or Anchor Bridge, nor in the The Anchor Inn car park, nor at the entrance to forestry 500m west of Anchor Bridge.

There are three options available at the start:

Option 1: Entrants can be dropped-off at Anchor Bridge by 0450.

Option 2 Entrants can park at The Anchorage on Saturday morning (see below.) Please aim to arrive no later than 0440.

Option 3: Entrants can camp at The Anchorage, Anchor.

This campsite is located on the road to Beguildy, 140m south of the crossroads at The Anchor Inn (i.e. where the coaches normally set down entrants) and is 550m by road from the start at Anchor Bridge. The campsite is operated by Mr Richard Adams who welcomes its use for our event. Tents, caravans, campervans and cars can be accommodated for one or two nights at the following nightly rate:

Parking only:	£5
Camping:	£10 (parking included)
Electric hook-up:	£5 surcharge (limited quantity available)

Richard can also offer accommodation in a number of static caravans on site. Please liaise direct with him in order to book these.

The following link shows the location of the campsite:

<https://www.google.com/maps/@52.4569637,-3.214371,17.76z>

Full address: The Anchorage, Anchor, Newcastle on Clun, Salop SY7 8PR

Phone number: 01686 670737

The site has fresh and waste water facilities. A single toilet and shower are also provided *but both are co-located in the same room*. Accordingly, at peak times, availability may be severely restricted. It is hoped to provide an additional chemical toilet and latrine tent for general use. Additionally, if the static caravans are not booked, the shower and toilets in those may be available. Cleanliness, particularly in respect of COVID-19, must be maintained with these shared facilities.

Parking of cars and pitching of tents may be segregated for safety and convenience. Please be prepared to follow signs and close gates as appropriate.

Mr Adams has stated that booking is not necessary, and an overflow field is available, though access may be more difficult than that to the main camping field. Please keep the gate to the overflow field clear.

Whilst the organisers plan to be on-site and available to provide assistance from Friday afternoon, it is the responsibility of all entrants to settle their own accounts with Mr Adams prior to departure. Please keep noise to a minimum, particularly on Friday night and Saturday morning as other residents not associated with the walk may be using the site.

We may have a gathering on the site on Friday night, so feel free to bring a chair and appropriate refreshments.

Unfortunately, the landlord of The Anchor Inn was taken ill last year and this unique establishment has remained closed since then.

### The Walk

Once underway, the event should be indistinguishable from the usual Across Wales Walk, excepting the limitations stated earlier. Checkpoint locations and opening times are as normal and are shown on the website, in addition to other general terms and conditions of entry etc.

Please comply with checking in and out requirements at checkpoints. There will be no clipping of tallies, but numbered cards will be allocated. Deviations from the usual route after CP4, for example as justified to reach transport or accommodation in locations other than Clarach Bay, may be allowed but only if pre-arranged. In these cases, times and locations and, in particular, finish location and time, must, as a minimum be provided to RAYNET by TXT to the SOS number.

Entrants may choose to do just part of the route for operational reasons, for example, as part of a social group sharing the driving of a support/return car. The Organisers must be made clear of such intentions and place no transport requirements on the Organisers or others. All participants must register and special 'participated in' certificates will be available for those not completing the whole distance.

### Entrant-provided Support

Clearly with reduced provision of general support we will be primarily reliant upon entrants to be self-supporting. Some entrants may choose to engage a 'follower' car which is allowed. Support along the route can be provided at checkpoints, as long as all efforts are taken not to impede operation of the checkpoint other road traffic. Parking is particularly limited at CP1 and therefore best avoided by non-essential vehicles.

### Return Transport

Entrants are welcome to make whatever arrangements suit them, be that staying in the Aberystwyth area, or returning to Anchor or home on Saturday evening or on Sunday morning.

For those finishing sufficiently early, the last train on Saturday evening leaves Aberystwyth at 1929 (new station at Bow Street at 1937) arriving at the closest station to Anchor – Newtown – at 20:44, and the fare is £14-80. Anchor is then a further 8 miles from Newtown for which a taxi could be engaged.

If staying overnight in the Aberystwyth area, the first train leaves Aberystwyth at 0929 (Bow Street at 0937) arriving at Newtown at 1041, with services hourly thereafter.

Clearly the challenge of returning to Anchor remains, if that's where your vehicle is located.

Note that face coverings are mandatory on all public transport.

### COVID-19 Precautions

In addition to essential gear as outlined in the usual entry conditions on the website the following must be carried:

- An appropriate face covering or mask.

This is to be used on public or private hire transport, or during evacuation following retirement. Note that any transport offered by marshals and others is entirely at the providers' discretion.

- A small bottle of hand sanitiser

Use of hand sanitiser should be considered at points of risk along the route.

- A cup

In a change to normal practice, disposable cups will not be provided. Entrants own cups must be kept clean, not contact taps or water containers, and not be shared.

- A mobile phone

Coverage remains incomplete in the Cambrian Mountains. Nevertheless, each person or group must retain the means to contact the event SOS number. It is strongly recommended that the following apps be installed to aid in communicating one's location:

- OS Locate
- What3Words

Clearly battery life should be maximised for emergency use.

### Entry Fee

In recognition of the years of loyal attendance by our many regular entrants, and the incomplete level of support being provided in this edition, as last year there will not be a fixed entry fee. However, donations are invited, these being vital to offset our fixed costs such as insurance and affiliation which are levied upon us irrespective of the scale of the event. In addition, we aim to provide expenses to checkers and RAYNET from your donations.

After your place on the event is confirmed, please provide donations via BACS to the following account:

Across Wales Walk Association  
Acc. No: 38794500  
Sort Code: 54-30-35

**Please note that the organisers reserve to right to cancel at any stage if, for example, the weather forecast ahead of the event is judged to present excessive risk to entrants, or the COVID-19 regulations prevent the event running as planned.**

Booking a Place

Please complete the separate entry form and submit this to the following e-mail address:

[COVIDSpecial@acrosswaleswalk.co.uk](mailto:COVIDSpecial@acrosswaleswalk.co.uk)

Assisting with the 58<sup>th</sup> Across Wales Walk

We would welcome assistance from experienced entrants on the day. If this is of interest then please contact us ASAP by e-mail.

We look forward to seeing you on the event!

Stuart Lamb

Organiser, 58<sup>th</sup> Across Wales Walk,  
on behalf of The Across Wales Walk Association  
[www.acrosswaleswalk.co.uk](http://www.acrosswaleswalk.co.uk)