



## KARABINER MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

# TY POWDWR

*Welcome to*

**Dinorwic, Llanberis, North Wales Map Ref: 585609 Sheet 115**

**Ty Powdwr** was once the black powder store for the Dinorwic quarries - set at 1000ft in the heart of Snowdonia, it is owned by the Karabiner Mountaineering Club.

Ty Powdwr is available to recognized clubs, groups or organizations for midweek or weekend hire, and makes a splendid base for climbing, mountaineering, walking, cycling, and running. It also lends itself to use by educational groups or those simply wanting a convenient base in the heart of Snowdonia.

Accommodation is available for up to 23 people, in mixed dormitories with alpine style bunks.  
(It is essential that groups bring their own sleeping bags.)

## AVAILABILITY

Open all year round, Ty Powdwr is better equipped than a typical bunk-house, offering hostel-style accommodation. Weekend group bookings can normally be made for up to 17 people in two dormitories, mid-week bookings can be for up to 23 people in three dormitories. A fourth dormitory is always reserved for Karabiner Club members, who can use the Hut at any time. There is a very large kitchen, with excellent gas cooking facilities, plus a very comfortable lounge. There are separate male and female wash-rooms, both with hot showers, plenty of private parking and an effective drying room.

Located near the village of Dinorwic, next to the Padarn Country Park, there are views from round the Hut towards Snowdon, over Llanberis and out to Anglesey. Ty Powdwr is within walking distance of Llanberis, 20 minutes by car to Caernarfon and Bangor, and even less to Llanberis Pass or the Ogwen Valley.



## Karabiner Mountaineering Club

For bookings and availability visit

[www.karabiner.org](http://www.karabiner.org)

[hut-bookings@karabiner.org](mailto:hut-bookings@karabiner.org)

Tel Keith 01254 830 655

# Some History

Ty Powdwr was originally the black powder store for the Dinorwic Slate Quarries.

The KMC selected the name for the building to reflect its historic use. The quarrymen blasted away a large part of the local mountain, Elidir Fawr, to obtain the slate that was one of the most common roofing materials in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Many men died in the process, but only about 10% of the slate extracted from the mountain actually made it onto roofs.

Quarrying stopped in the 1960s when cheaper slate began to arrive from Spain and China. When the KMC purchased the building in the early 1970's, Ty Powdwr was virtually a solid blockhouse, surrounded by blast walls and with no windows. Over the first 10 years members laboured in horrible conditions to provide electricity, gas, water and sewerage. Over the next 15 years or so, various bits were finished off and finally, the hut was developed from end to end. In subsequent years the members responsible for the building have continued to upgrade in the light of experience and new technology, reducing energy bills while increasing comfort and improving facilities. Maintenance of the Hut is an ongoing task!

## Activities

With Snowdon and its surrounding hills all within easy reach of the hut, Ty Powdwr is an ideal venue for a large variety of outdoor activities.

Some of the best climbing routes in Wales can be found in Llanberis pass and the Ogwen valley just a short drive away.

Walking, cycling and running routes start from the doorstep. Climbers who want to stay close to the hut can sample the climbs in the nearby quarries. (Please adhere to local restrictions regarding access to quarry routes.)

We have given a few sample routes for you to try here but these are just the tip of the iceberg, there are lots of guide books maps and magazines at the hut, so that you can plan your own individual challenges.



The hut has a comfortable lounge with plenty of chairs to sit and read, ease the aches and pains of the day's exertions or just sit out the odd rain shower.

It also boasts a spacious well equipped kitchen for refueling after a hard day on the hill.



Dormitories are alpine style bunks with pine clad walls. Don't forget your sleeping bag

**Ty Powdwr** is ideally situated for access into the Snowdonia national park. The area around the hut has great access to the mountains and slate quarries where there is ample scope for climbing, walking, fell running and cycling. Here are just a few samples for fell runs and cycle routes from near the hut, larger scale maps are available at the hut or if you would prefer to print your own copy the files are also available for download at [www.karabiner.org](http://www.karabiner.org)

**Run 1: MOEL EILIO** (Approx 18k and 1160m.)

This run is based on a classic which features every year in the fell race calendar. The race route starts and finishes in Llanberis, but, as with run 2, we have the added benefit of a steep descent at the start and uphill at the finish to extend the route, and to confound those runners who think fell races always start by going up! If you just want to do the race route from Llanberis, it starts at (575600) and finishes at the youth hostel (574597).

(A) Head back out along Ty Powdyr approach track.....

... (Full run details available on line or there are a few printed copies at the hut.)

**Run 2: SNOWDON** (Approx 19k and 1150m)

The start and finish, to get to and from Llanberis, are the same as a run 1.

Once you get to the main road in Llanberis, turn left, then take the road on the right after the Snowdon railway terminus. This leads you up to the start of the Snowdon track, for which no directions are needed. The international Snowdon fell race goes straight up and straight down, to finish back in the playing fields. The record is around 60 minutes; 40 minutes up and 20 minutes down! .....

... (Full run details available on line or there are a few printed copies at the hut.)

**Run 3: THE ZIG-ZAGS** (Approx 10km and 220m)

This is as much a slate run as a fell run, but gives you a great introduction to the enormity of the slate quarry workings in the area.

Take the track out to the road, and follow this toward Deiniolen for 200m to bus-stop quarry.....

... (Full run details available on line or there are a few printed copies at the hut.)



**There are also some great cycle routes from the hut, again we have put together a couple of sample routes here but these are only a few of the routes available nearby.**

**Shorter off road route: Moel y Ci**

Distance – 12.5 miles approx.

This is a pleasant route in all weather. Take plenty of spare tubes!

1. From Bus Stop Quarry car park, head toward Dinorwic and Deiniolen. Turn right at the crossroads (bus shelter on your left).

Turn left at the first fork past the Sardis 'B' chapel then right at the next fork.

Go straight on at the crossroads, then as the road bends left round the hillside .....

... (Full run details available on line or there are a few printed copies at the hut.)

**Shorter road route: Clegir.**

Distance – 12.5 miles approx.

Pleasant road route, with lovely views, Great evening loop, with no real difficulties.

1. From Bus Stop Quarry car park, head through Dinorwic and Deiniolen, turning left at the junction with the B4547. Turn left again at the junction with the A4086 and bear right into the centre of Llanberis. ....

... (Full run details available on line or there are a few printed copies at the hut.)

**Longer road route: Snowdon Circuit.**

Distance – 38 miles approx.

This route can be tough, if the wind is against you.

1. From Bus Stop Quarry car park, head toward Dinorwic and Deiniolen. Turn right at the crossroads (bus shelter on your left).

Turn left at the first fork past the Sardis 'B' chapel then right at the next fork.

Go straight on at the crossroads, then as the road bends left round the hillside with the wood on your right, turn right toward Mynydd Llandygai.....

... (Full run details available on line or there are a few printed copies at the hut.)

**Longer off road route: Telegraph valley**

Distance – 20.5 miles approx.

Pleasant route, lots of climbing and a couple of tricky sections. The route can be soggy in a couple of places, mixture of road and off road, best done early in the morning or later in the evening during summer months, due to the busyness of the Snowdon Ranger path.

1. From Bus Stop quarry car park, head through the barrier and onto the main slate quarry track. Continue past the cutting sheds, through the barrier then follow the track past Dali's Hole and through Watford Gap. Carefully descend right on the fast zigzag track, through the gate and turn right onto the A4086 toward Llanberis.....

... (Full run details available on line or there are a few printed copies at the hut.)



# Surrounding Area

**Padarn Country Park** The Padarn country park is on the doorstep; botanists can explore the oak woods or seek out some of Britain's rarest plants in the Idwal nature reserve. Walk down through the Padarn and you will see the magnificent 12th century Dolbadarn Castle built by Llewelyn the Great.

**Dinorwic Quarry** For students of industrial archeology, the National Slate Museum is within walking distance, as are the awe inspiring remnants of the Dinorwic quarries.

Many of the slate tips that disfigured the landscape have now been returned (courtesy of an EU grant) to the great quarry shafts from which they were blasted, then covered with earth and grassed over, so that these days the hut is surrounded by grazing land and woods.

**Llanberis** Railway enthusiasts can enthuse over two of the great little trains of Wales – The Llanberis lake railway just below on the shores of Lake Padarn and of course the Snowdon Mountain railway.

## LOCAL ACTIVITIES

- Climbing Llanberis pass and Ogwen Valley
- Mountain walking.
- Mountain biking.
- Fell running.
- Canoeing.
- Diving.
- Sites of local interest.

## Local Towns

Ancient Caernarvon with its magnificent castle and Roman fort of Segontium is 10km away. Drive over the Menai Bridge to Beaumaris to see Edward the First's last castle. In the town, your party, could serve a short "sentence" in the 19th century gaol and see the treadmill and condemned cell. Menai Bridge also houses a museum of childhood

Anglesey's uncrowded beaches and sea air are 30 minutes drive away and birdwatchers will want to migrate to South Stack's towering cliffs with their massed colonies of seabirds around the light house

Alternatively, more commercial seaside attractions are available at Llandudno, Criccieth, Pwllheli and Abersoch.

Visits to two eco-friendly technology sites are near to hand, the Centre for Alternative Technology in Machynlleth and, nearer, the pumped storage site at Dinorwic, hollowed from the mountain practically beneath Ty Powdwr. Dinorwic is the most powerful station of its type in the world, yet is invisible from the outside.

