

Llanarmon-yn-Ial pools

	Llanarmon-yn-Ial CH7 4BW
Place	12.2 miles, 19.5 km
Distance	Nercwys Wood
Start OS Grid Ref. SJ 217, 577	The Raven inn (community run) at Llanarmon (slightly off route) at 01824 780833 Shop open 7 days a week.
Risks Facilities	
Parking	Parking for 2 trailers at Nercwys Wood entry (if needing more, there is also parking at the northern entry – ride through the Wood for 1,600 m. to the start point).
The Ride	All within the Clwydian AONB. Excellent views towards Moel Famau to the north and, distant, Snowdonia to the west. Some 8 – 9 km. (so rather less than half) is bridleway/off-road. Almost all the road work is quiet (see Risks above)
Nercwys Wood Grid ref SJ 217, 577	With the Wood behind you, turn right along the lane for 800 m. to a T junction. Turn left into another lane and ride for 250 m. to the next junction. This is a busier, though minor road, to Eryrys. Turn left for 350 m, passing Carreg-y-Sais farm on the right.
Ty'n-y-Pistyll junction Grid ref SJ 210, 576	Then take a bridleway on the right beyond the farm. Pass Carreg-y-Sais farm on the right, again, and ride on for 800 m. This bridleway is undulating and is partly across limestone and so can be stony.
Llanarmon Quarry Grid ref SJ 202, 573	Turn right onto the minor road to Eryrys, climb for a few metres and cross onto a grassy patch. Bear left onto the path past the Hafod on the right and the vertical drop into the (disused) quarry on the left. Continue for 500 m. through scrub to emerge onto Old School Lane at Nant.
Nant Grid ref SJ 197, 576	This lane is quite steep and can be slippery for shod horses. Turn left onto the lane and descend for 900 m. to the T junction with the B5430.
B5430 Pistyll Gwyn Quarry Grid Ref SJ 191, 571	Turn right onto the road (fairly busy) and, after 550 m. passing the quarry on the right, take a track on the left. Alternatively, after turning onto the road for 100 m., take Bridleway Llanarmon 47 and ascend past a farm on the left for 800 m. around the quarry and turn left onto a track for 500 m. Skirt the quarry back to the B5430. Cross the road and take the track opposite (this is part of the BHS's Seahorse Trail).
Ford Pistyll Gwyn Quarry Grid ref SJ 188, 574	On leaving the B5430, descend the track, cross the ford and ascend to a lane. Turn left and ride on for 1 km. to a fork.
Ffordd Rhiw Ial fork Grid ref SJ 186, 565	Take the right hand fork and continue 800 m., passing an electricity sub-station on the left, a lane to the left to Llanarmon and a lane to the right (the Sea Horse route goes along this). Turn right on to Bridleway Llanarmon 72.
Plas Llanarmon Grid ref SJ 184, 557	This is a well-made track ascending for 800 m. to a sharp bend to the left (good views across the valley). Take the left hand bend and then curve right to bring Gweryd Lodge into view. Pass the barns, stables and café on the left and continue along the bridleway, keeping Gweryd lake on the right (there are feeder pools on the left behind Gweryd Lodge). Ride through woods for 250 m. and then continue with woods on the right and fields to the left for another 1, 500 m. to a gate a few metres before a lane. Go through the gate to the lane.
Nurse Gorlan Grid ref SJ 171, 542	Bear left past the sign for Pen-y-Ffrith ascending and then descending a hill past Tyddyn Tlodion on the left. It is 2,100 m. to the next junction – a crossroads with the B5431.
B5431 Road Grid ref SJ 182, 526	Turn left onto the B5431, the OS describes it as 'narrow road with passing places', so more like a lane and lightly trafficked. Ride on for 1,500 m. If you reach Ty'n Lliidiart (on the left) / Glascoed (right), you've gone too far.

Llanarmon pools
Continued:-

For interest, St. Garmon's well is the other side of a field on the left after 1 km. and just before a track crosses the road.

Bridleway
Llanarmon 1
Grid ref SJ 189,
539

The bridleway is on the right, down a drop from the road to a field gate (not easy). Initially, the bridleway then goes along a track between two hedges for 200 m. and then ride across a field for 150 m. towards **Pant-y-Ffordd Isaf farm**. Good chance of cattle. Before the farm, ford the Afon Alun and ride upwards to cross the track to the farm, with the farm to the left. Continue through a farm gate (not easy) and bear left, through woods, with the farm beneath you on the left. At the end of the wood, go through a farm gate onto a hilly pasture. Bear left for about 100 m. to a bridleway sign (in the middle of the field!) directing you to the right along the line of the ridge. After 350 m. there's a bridle gate into a wood. Follow the track through the wood for 800 m.

Allt-y-Gymbyd
caravan park
Grid ref SJ 205,
549

With Allt-y-Gymbyd caravan park on the left, to reach a metal field gate onto a lane.

Go through the gate onto the lane, leaving the caravan park behind you. Ride along the lane, finally descending after 1 km. to a T junction. Turn right and, after 100 m., turn left onto Byway Llanarmon 12. Have a canter for the next 1,200 m. till reaching the B5430. Turn left onto the B5430, passing the pub on the right to a crossroads after <100 m. Cross and ride up fairly steeply for 500 m., passing Maes-y-Droell disused quarry on the right.

Graianrhyd
Grid ref SJ 216,
567
Maes-y-Droell
Bridleway
Llanarmon 17

Turn right onto the bridleway and ride on for 500 m. to a T junction with a lane. Turn left and continue for 600 m., ascending gradually to the brow of the hill. Take Bridleway Treuddyn 23 on the left and ride on for 750 m. (watch your head!).

Turn left onto the lane and ride on for 150 m. back to the start point.