

Now accommodation from the station to the bunkhouse is 15 miles away,

Get directions My places

Add Destination - Show options

GET DIRECTIONS

Suggested routes

A487	15.0 mi, 24 mins
A470 and A489	21.7 mi, 31 mins

Driving directions to Machynlleth, Powys, UK

This route has restricted usage or private roads.

A Dolgellau LL40 2AB UK

1. Head east
Restricted usage road 223 ft
2. Turn right toward A470 292 ft
3. Turn left onto A470 2.1 mi

Map labels: Barmouth, Afon Mawddach, Penygadair, Dolgellau, Tabor, Ffynddgate, Machynlleth, Llangelynin, Brynchrug, Tywyn, Cemmer Road.

From the bunkhouse to the start of the loop (CAD WEST) its only 6.7 miles away so all pretty close in a radius.

Car, Bus, Walk, Bike

A LL40 2AB

B Rhiw Ty Neint

Add Destination - Show options

GET DIRECTIONS

Suggested routes

A470 and A487	6.7 mi, 11 mins
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Driving directions to Rhiw Ty Neint, Gwynedd LL36, UK

This route has restricted usage or private roads.

A Dolgellau LL40 2AB UK

1. Head east

Map labels: Bontyddu, Afon Mawddach, Penygadair, Dolgellau, Tabor, Brithdir, A470, A487, A493, A495, A496, A497, A498, A499.

Accommodation

I have found accommodation for us which is shown on the map above. The name of where we will be staying is called Torrent Walk Campsite. New toilet block with facilities for disabled etc hair dryers washing machines drying facilities fridge opening in March.

There are electric hook up points, power washers for cleaning bikes and equipment. The town of Dolgellau is only one and a half miles away and has a full range of shops. There is also a shop and cafe within a pleasant 5 minute walk

Rates are £7.00 per person £3 for Children under 12 £2 For Dogs and **£3.00 for Electric Hook up**. We now also have winter storage please contact us for details. Our Shower facilities are included in the price.

Cheap place but has got what we need. -

<http://www.ukcampsite.co.uk/sites/details.asp?revid=5203>

THE MACH LOOP AREAS

Bwlch-Y-Groes

Direction of flow - Right to Left (Possible Left to Right)

Hillside faces - East (Aircraft pass from South to North)

Type of shot - Level and Side on with possible Top shot in the turn.

Good points -

Bad points - Shooting into Sun during the Morning. Height Varies. Short Warning. Quieter than the Loop.

Grid Ref :

Latitude :

Longitude :

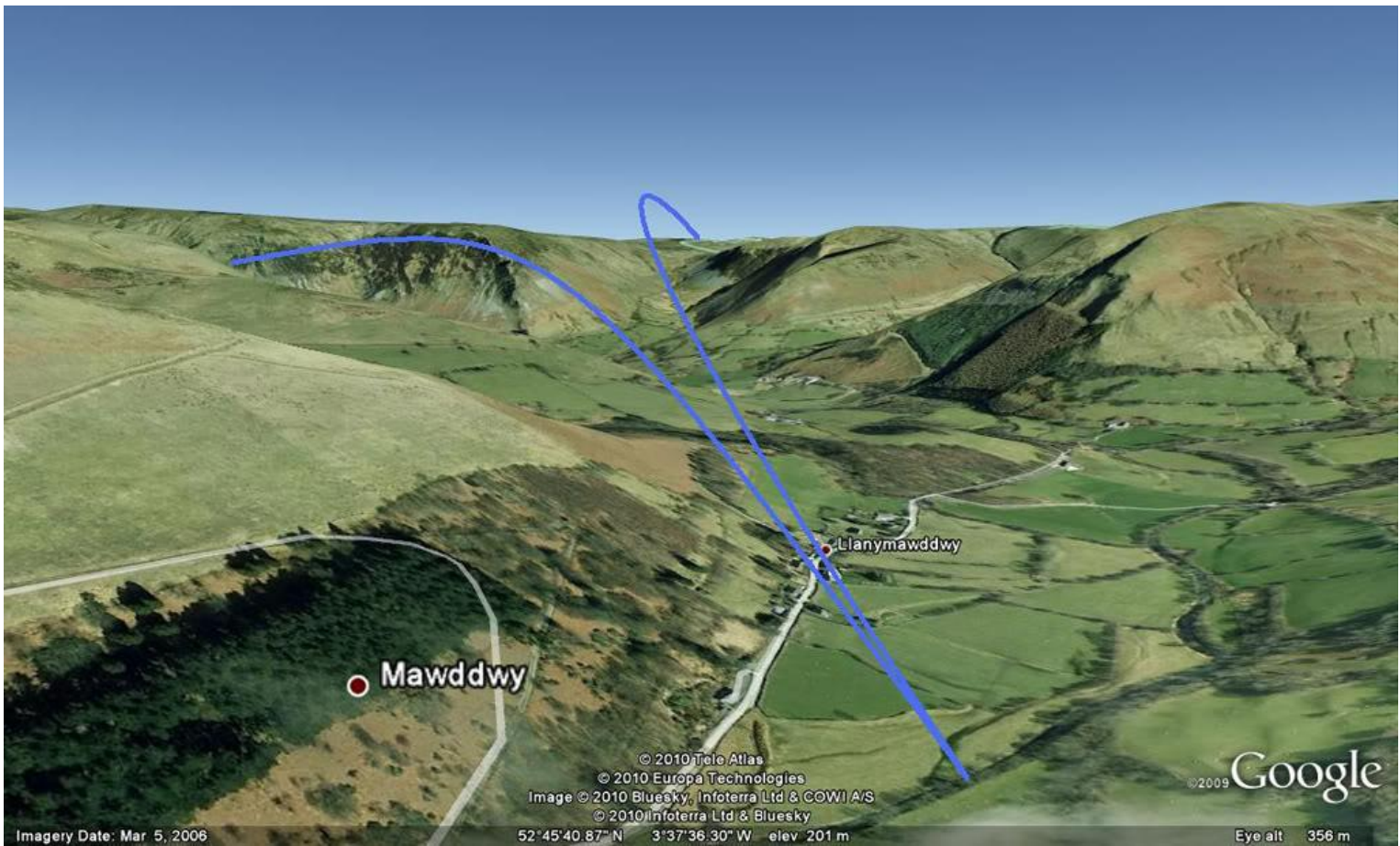
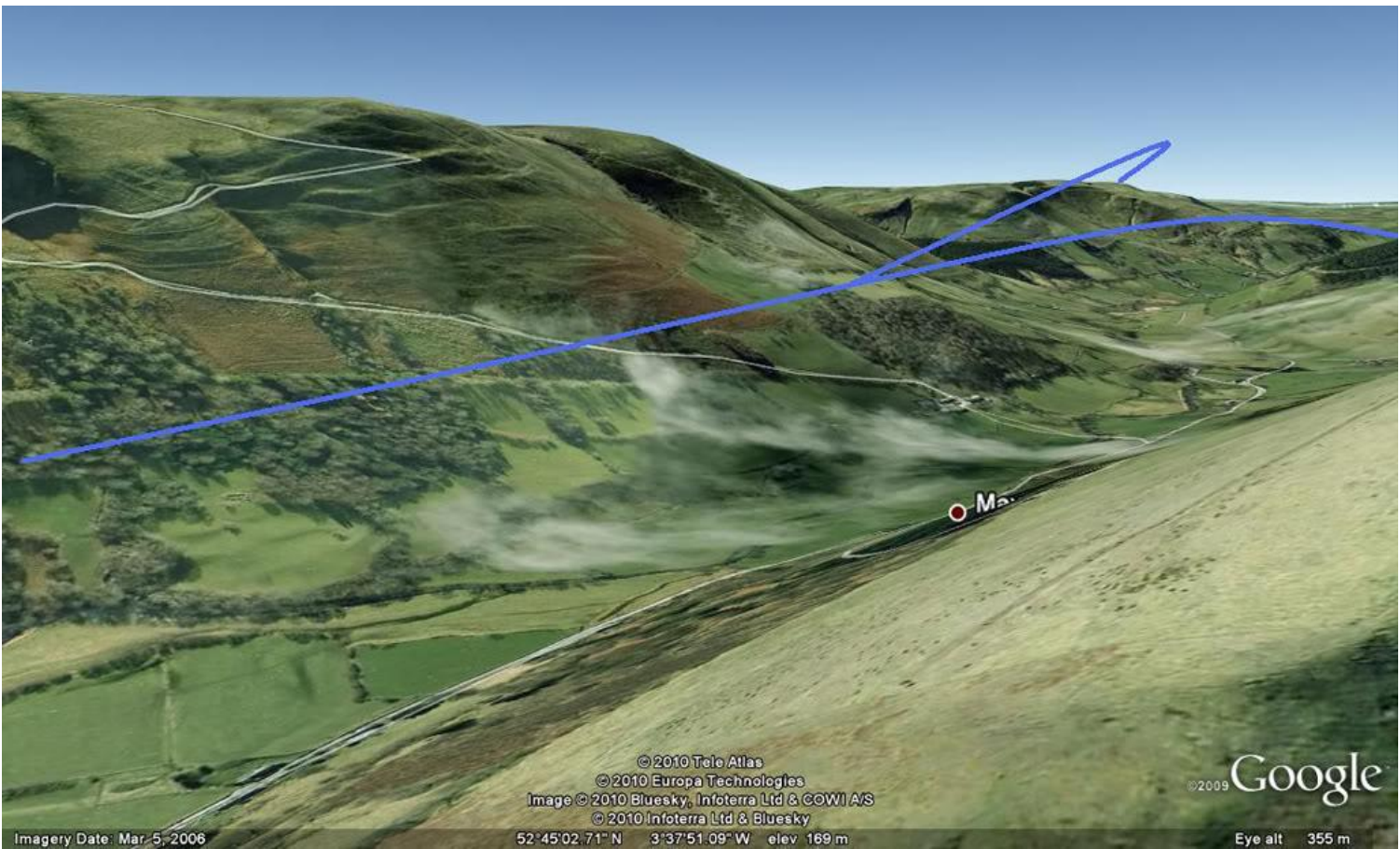
Distance from Car park : 0.39 miles

Height Climbed : 682ft

Nearest Village - Llanymawddwy

Route Up





The Bwlch Exit

Direction of flow - Right to Left

Hillside faces - North-East

Type of shot - topside or level pass

Good points - Stunning views, car park, defined pathway for some of the walk up.

Bad points - Shadows can cause very low light levels in the mornings and late afternoon in the early part of the valley, Very little warning on approaching aircraft.

Grid Ref : SH795168

Latitude : 52:44:10N

Longitude : 3:47:02W

Distance from Car park : 0.53mile

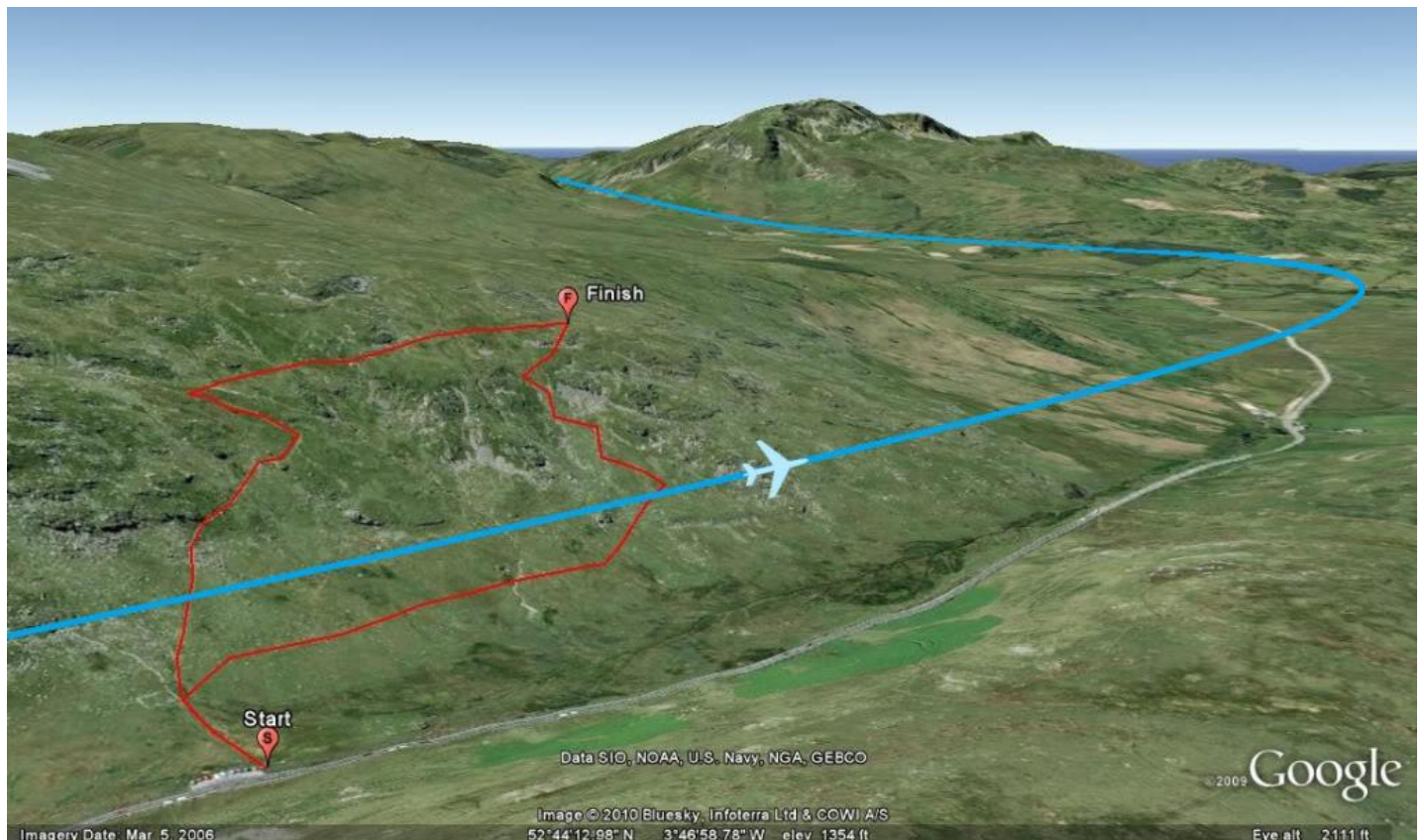
Height Climbed : 351ft

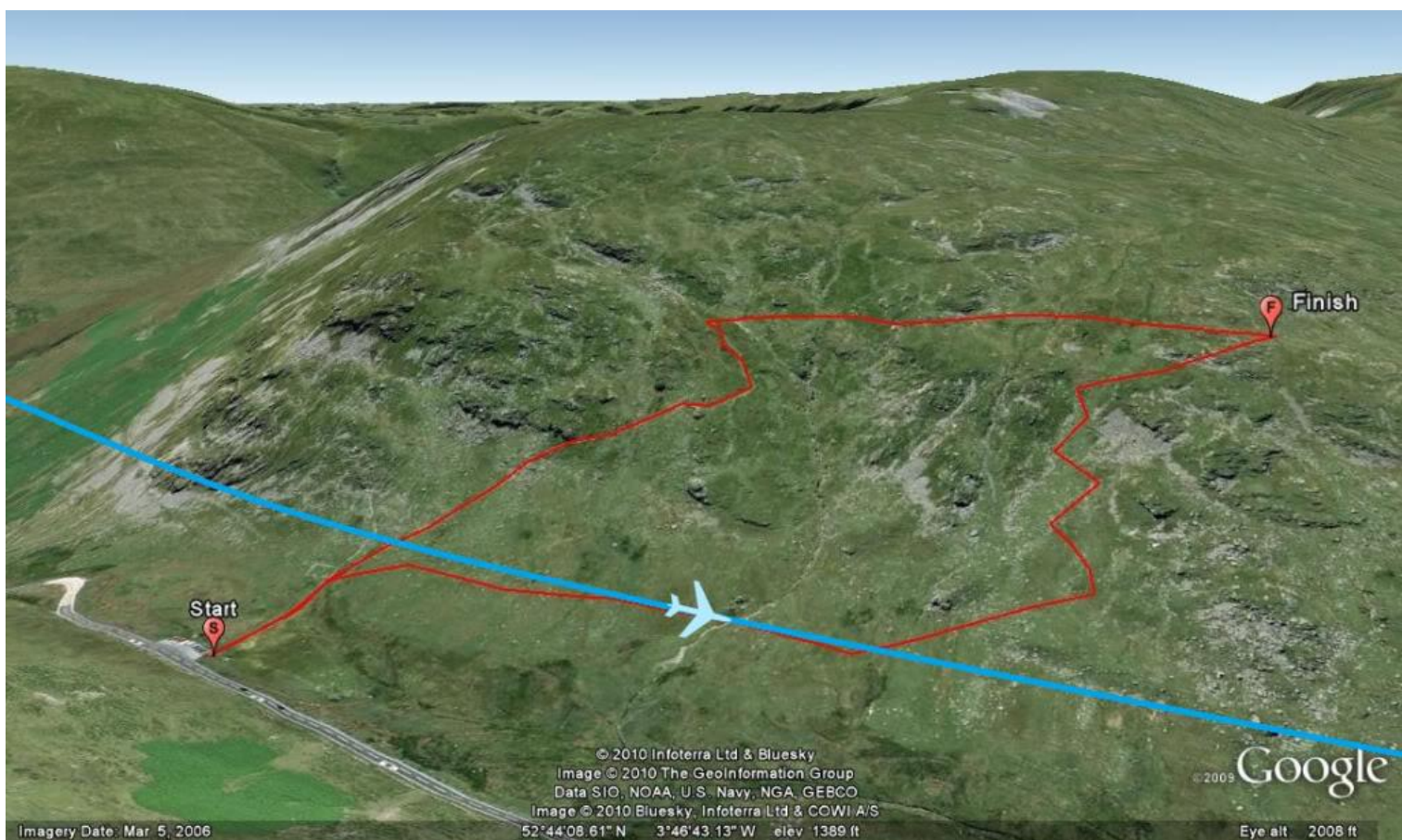
Google Earth File(s) : [Link](#) [Link](#)

The Exit is one of the best locations for light levels in the loop. Being at the very end of the bwlch valley the land starts to level out and opens up onto the Barmouth estuary. Aircraft can be seen entering the loop at Cad, this gives ample warning but can be annoying when the aircraft do not come all the way round. Its important to note that the carpark can become very busy so it is advised to arrive early. Please do not block to gate to the land as the farmer may need access during the day.

Please remember to follow the Countryside Code

Shown below are the two most popular routes to the Bwlch Exit. It is important to climb a little before heading in the direction of the exit. This is due to marsh land which is situated in the bottom of the valley. In the distance the aircrafts path can be seen entering 'Cad'.





Examples of shots taken from 'The Bwlch Exit'.



Bluebell

Direction of flow - Right to Left

Hillside faces - North (Aircraft pass from East to West)

Type of shot - Side on or dipped wings

Good points - Great light in the summer, Pine tree's in background (different backdrop)

Bad points - Shadows can cause very low light levels in the valley, difficult climb up, very little warning from incoming aircraft.

Grid Ref : SH 8268916085

Latitude : 52°43'46.70"N

Longitude : 3°44'19.19"W

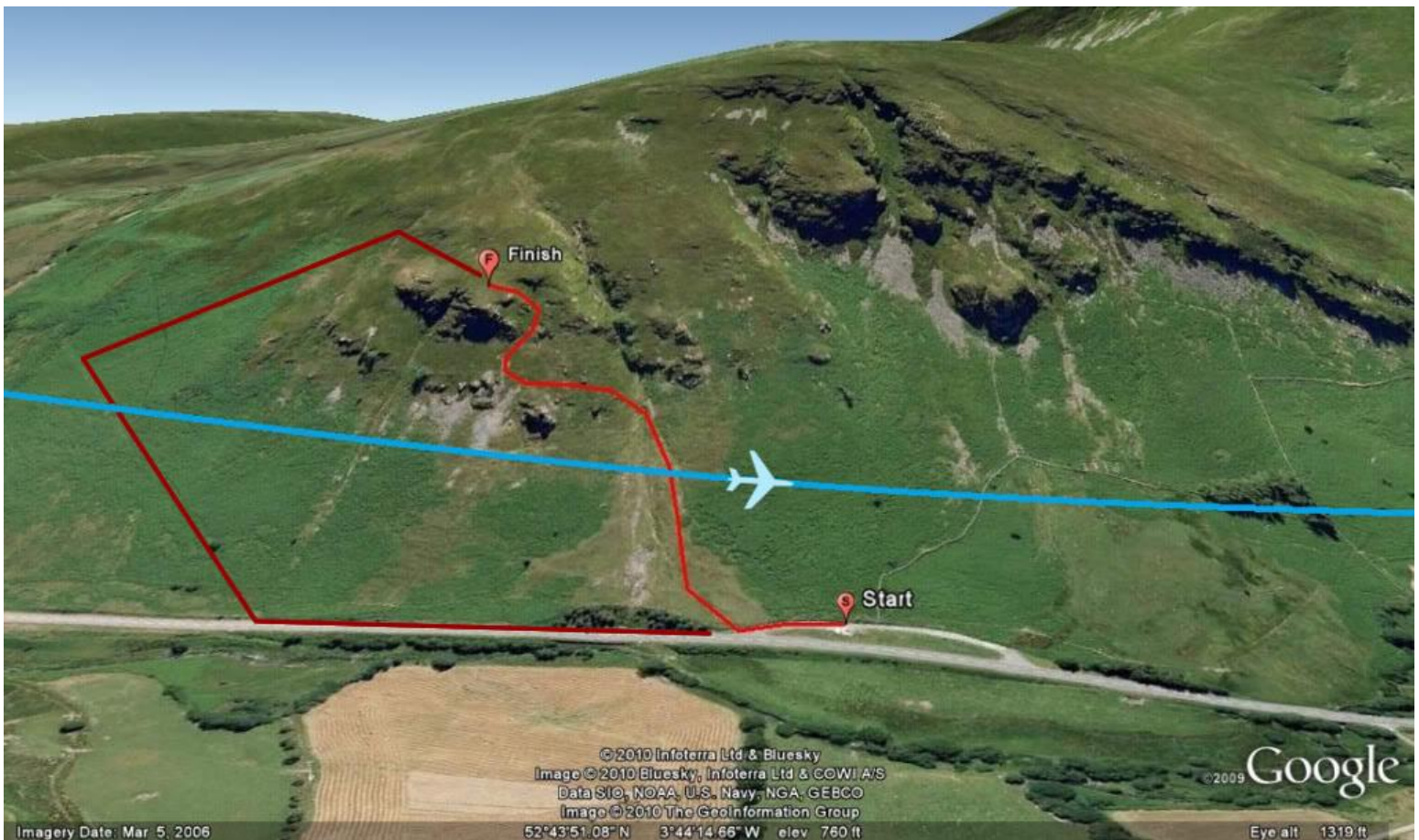
Distance from Car park : 0.22 miles

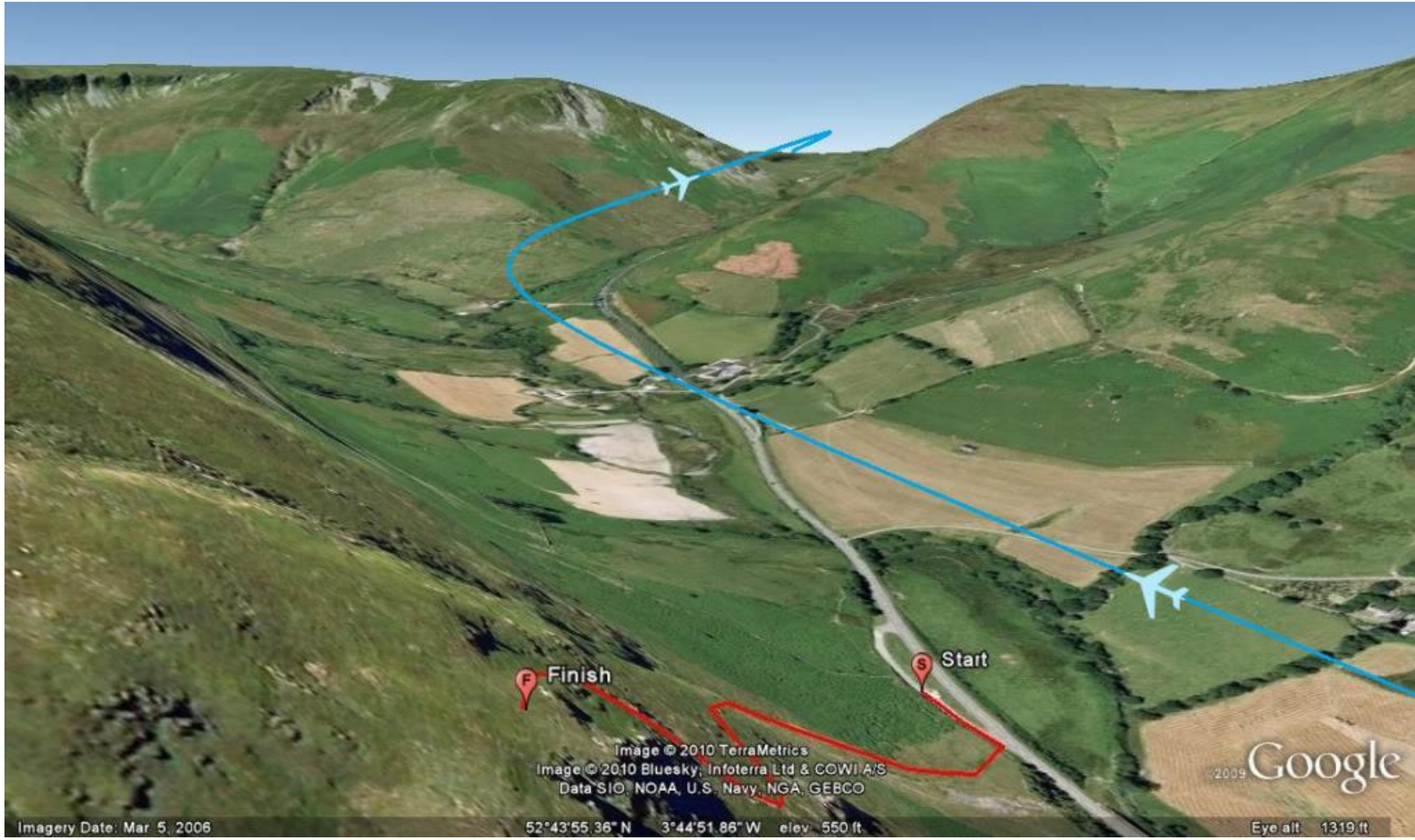
Height Climbed : 320ft

Google Earth File(s) : [Link](#)

Bluebell sits deep in the valley looking up towards the Bwlch locations. There is a layby nearby to park in which has a ample space. Aircraft approach from Dinas from the right but give very little notice on their arrival. Lighting can be tricky at times but when its good it really can be the place to be.

Please remember to follow the Countryside Code





Example of shots from Bluebell



Corris Corner

Direction of flow - Right to Left

Hillside faces - North to South West

Type of shot - Topside or level pass

Good points - Dramatic backdrop, Lots of space, a good winter location if the light is good.

Bad points - Small carpark, long walk, limited warning of aircraft

Grid Ref : SH734106

Latitude : 52:40:44N

Longitude : 3:52:26W

Distance from Carpark : 0.55mile

Height Climbed : 327ft

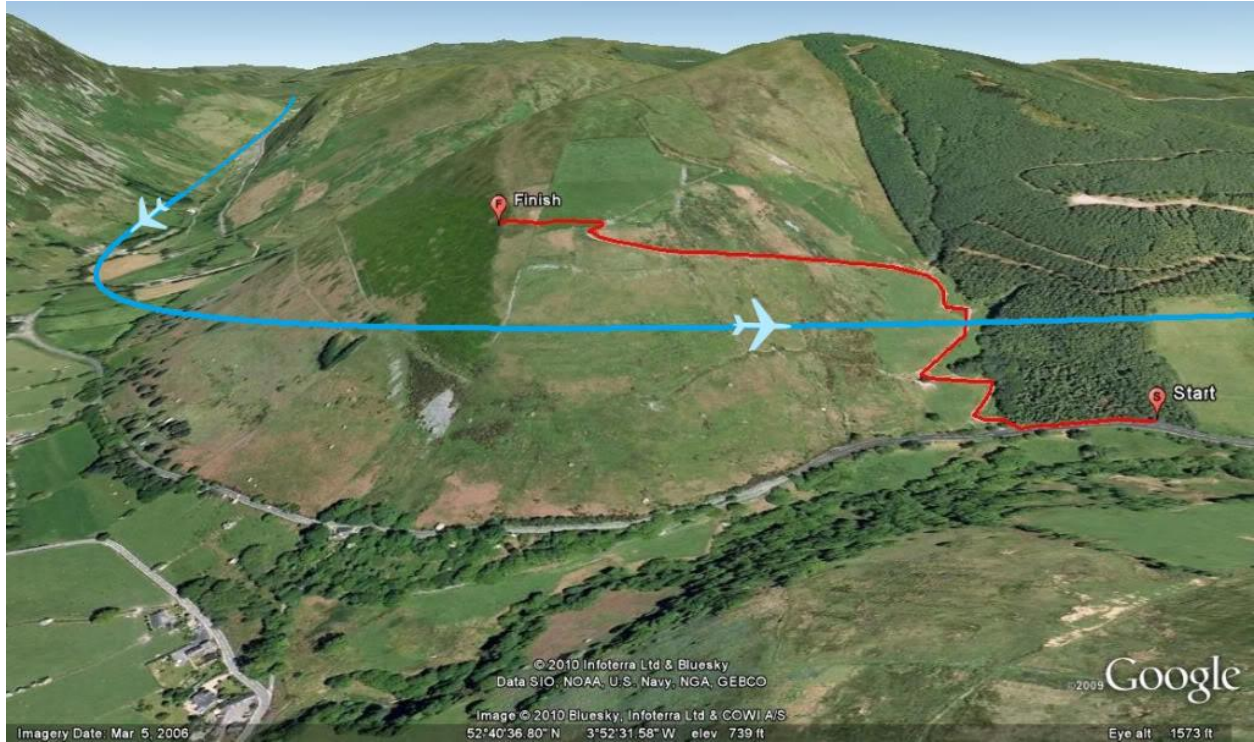
Google Earth File(s) : [Link](#)

Corris Corner is in the North West section of the Mach Loop and overlooks Tal-y-Llyn Lake. Aircraft usually approach from the right and either make the left turn around 'Corris Corner' to stay in the loop, or they continue straight over the lake and out into the Irish Sea. The limited warning of incoming aircraft means you will have to stay on the ball with camera near by. In Winter months 'Corris Corner' is an all day location but if the cloud base is thick the low light levels can be challenging. In the summer months during the afternoon the sun can cause problems as you are directly facing into it.

NOTE The direction of travel is only for jet engined aircraft. It is not uncommon to see other aircraft travelling in the opposite direction. Recently this has been in the form of Chinook's down at 150ft AGL! **Please remember to follow the Countryside Code and close all gates behind you!**

Shown below is a view showing 'Corris Corner'. The aircraft will approach from the left on this picture and if they turn they will continue to follow the blue line shown. The path to the top is displayed in red.

Please stick to the track as much as possible and be very careful crossing any fences as some are showing signs of damage which the land owner is not best pleased about.



This is the view looking West from 'Corris Corner'. The aircraft will usually follow the line marked in blue and head south. The lighter blue line indicated the other route that is sometimes taken that directs the aircraft out into the Irish Sea.



Some example shots taken from Corris Corner.



Cad East

Direction of flow - Right to Left

Hillside faces - North-West(Aircraft pass from East to West)

Type of shot - Belly shots, head on's, level passes

Good points - Stunning views which offer best warning for approaching aircraft, large car park, defined pathway.

Bad points - Long walk from the bottom car park, Not as 'dramatic' shots as Cad West.

Grid Ref : SH755133

Latitude : 52:42:13N

Longitude : 3:50:38W

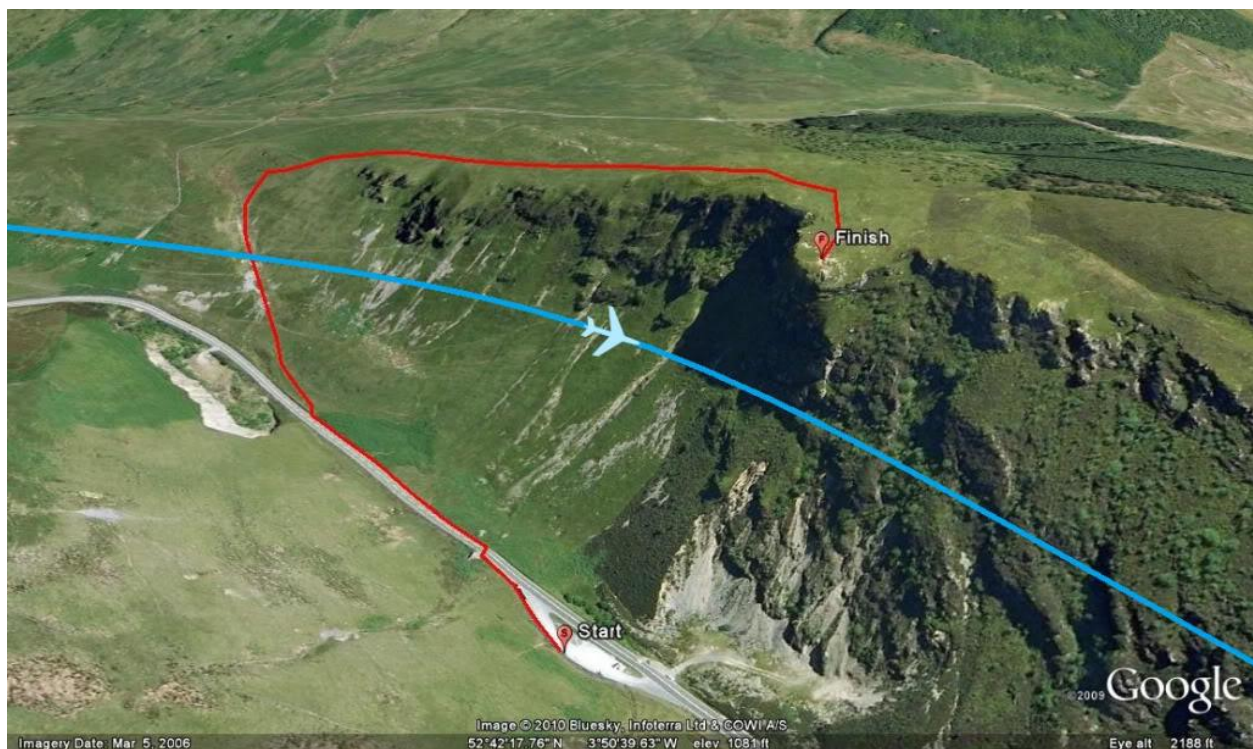
Distance from Car park : 0.90mile

Height Climbed : 422ft

Google Earth File(s) : [Link](#)

Cad East sits in the shadow of the massive Cadair Idris at the beginning of the Tal Y Lyn valley. From the top its possible to see all the way to snowdon and towards Bala so approaching aircraft can be seen very early. The car parking is also very good as it shares a large layby with Cad west. There is an access road that runs up the back of Cad East which does have very limited spaces for parking but it should never be blocked as its still used by the locals.

Please remember to follow the Countryside Code





Imagery Date: Mar 5, 2006

Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
© 2010 Infoterra Ltd & Bluesky

Image © 2010 Bluesky, Infoterra Ltd & COWI A/S
52°42'24.96" N 3°50'46.28" W elev. 1026 ft

© 2009 Google

Eye alt 1906 ft



Cad West

Direction of flow - Left to Right

Hillside faces - South (Aircraft pass from East to West)

Type of shot - Dramatic topside or level pass

Good points - Stunning views which offer best warning for approaching aircraft, large car park, defined pathway.

Bad points - Shadows can cause very low light levels in the mornings and late afternoon.

Grid Ref : SH754139

Latitude : 52:42:31N

Longitude : 3:50:42W

Distance from Car park : 0.40mile

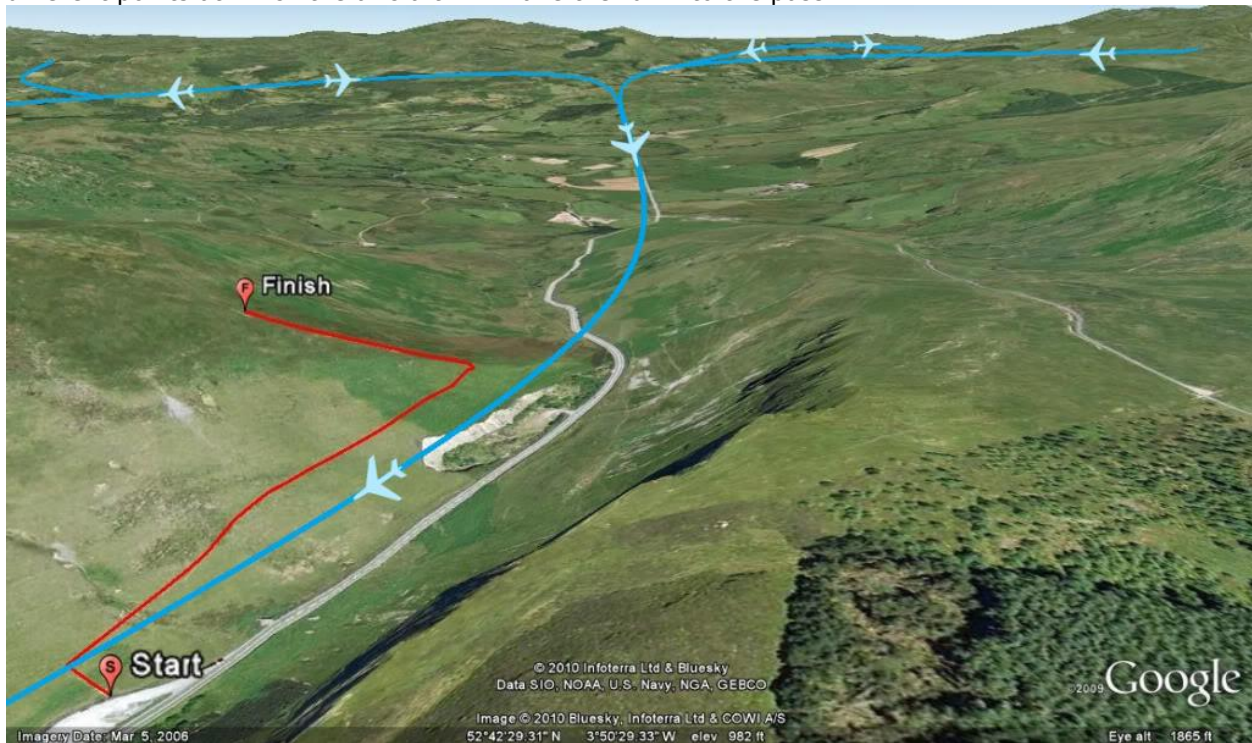
Height Climbed : 307ft

Google Earth File(s) : [Link](#)

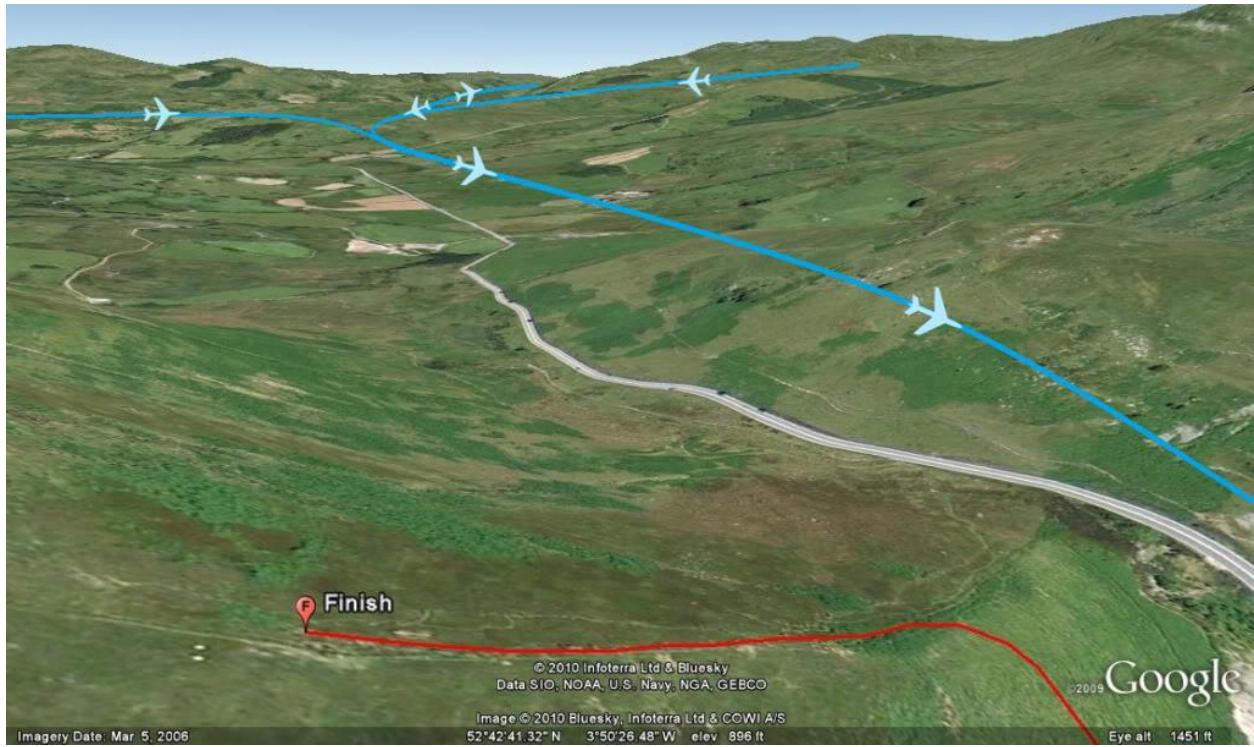
Cad West, or the 'Fence' as it is also known is a very popular location. The stunning views combined with the opportunity to spot incoming aircraft with plenty of warning can make the 'Fence' almost irresistible to hill climbers. There is enough parking for approx 20 cars and a clearly marked path to the location. This location offers a number of 'Entry' points into the Mach Loop that pass via Cad West and onto Corris Corner.

Please remember to follow the Countryside Code

Shown below is a view looking East with 'Cad West' in the lower left. The blue lines indicate the different points at which the aircraft will make the run into the pass.



Shown is an overview of the view from 'Cad West'. The footpath and route taken by the aircraft are shown again



The Bwlch

Direction of flow - Right to Left

Hillside faces - North-East (Aircraft pass from East to West)

Type of shot - Topside or level pass

Good points - Marked footpath for majority of walk up, Aircraft can be spotted early winding through the valley from Dinas.

Bad points - Shadows can cause very low light levels in the mornings and late afternoon, Steep parts on the climb up.

Grid Ref : SH802167

Latitude : 52:44:06N

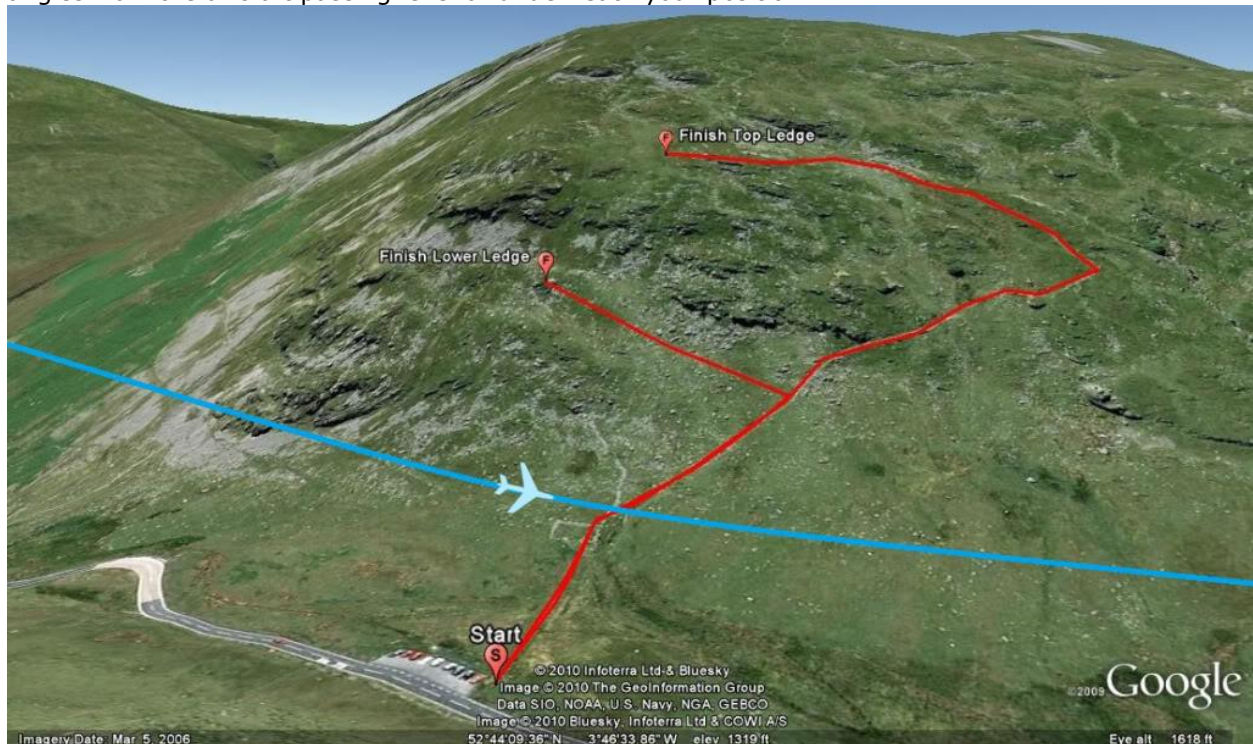
Longitude : 3:46:30W

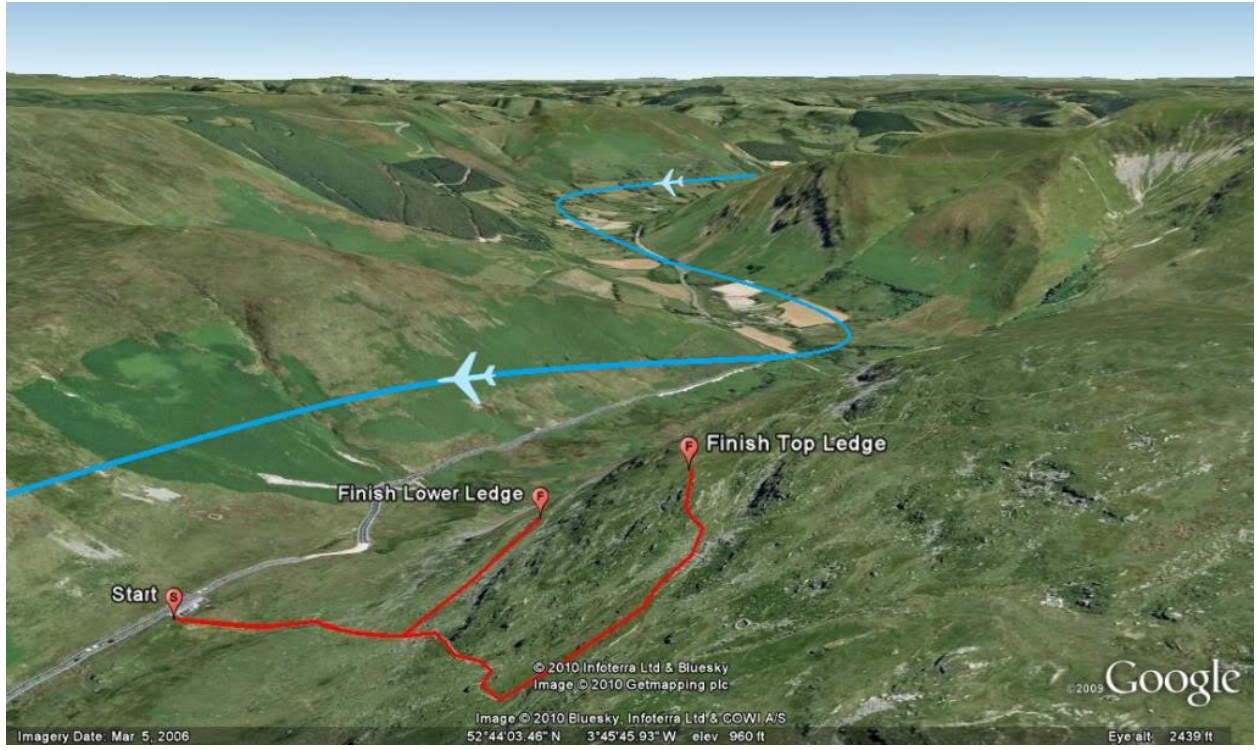
Distance from Car park : Top Ledge 0.40 miles, Middle Ledge 0.29 miles

Height Climbed : Top Ledge 423ft, Middle Ledge 236ft

Google Earth File(s) : [Top Ledge](#), [Middle Ledge](#)

The Bwlch stands above the highest road pass in Wales. The A470 climbs up from Dinas Mawdy and drops down towards the Barmouth estuary. This location offers three different heights for taking pictures from, these are the bottom ledge, middle ledge and top ledge. All three can give different angles from the aircraft passing level or underneath your position.





THE TIMETABLE INFORMATION

The timetable refers to a small area in Mid Wales called LFA7(T) This is a Tactical Training Area for operational low flying training by fast jets and Hercules transport aircraft. Operational low flying by fixed wing aircraft between 250ft and 100ft is a more representative altitude at which pilots would actually fly in a combat scenario.

It has no impact on what fly's through the Loop and is not a timetable on when you will see stuff, if there was such a thing it would be all too easy.

The best timetable runs from 0800-When ever you decide to leave the hill.

Below is the map of the TTA in question

The most northerly point is east of Machynlleth with the most southerly point being south east of Llandovery. The most easterly point is south west to west of Newtown with the most westerly point being south east of Lampeter.



at any time of the day you can see aircraft fly the loop from 8am until dark subject to weather conditions and not inc weekends.

The timetable is basically a time normally a 1 hour slot they are given to where they can fly down as low as 100ft within the boundaries of 7(T) If they are not using it then they are allowed to fly at 250ft and above



flyingslug_0
AeroResource Correspondent



Re: Cad west

by flyingslug_0 » Sat Feb 16, 2013 1:50 pm



Micktheslick uses public transport a lot. PM him I'm sure he will point you in the right direction. I'll probably be around in April, I'd be more than happy to give you a lift to the hills from the camp site 🙌🙌

southwest-aviation



Re: Cad west

by southwest-aviation » Sat Feb 16, 2013 3:26 pm



Hello we will be camping in the valley mate but your more than welcome to join us for some breakfast



flyingslug_0
AeroResource Correspondent



Re: Cad west

by flyingslug_0 » Sat Feb 16, 2013 3:40 pm



“ southwest-aviation wrote:
Hello we will be camping in the valley mate but your more than welcome to join us for some breakfast

Your mad!!! 🙌🙌 Lovely pub with warm beds just down the road 🙌🙌 Hope to catch up with you in April. 🙌🙌



flyingalug_0
AeroResource Correspondent



Re: Cad west

by flyingalug_0 » Sat Feb 16, 2013 8:13 pm



Let me know your dates, I'll pm you my number, who knows we might be staying at the same location. If I'm there when you are, I can pick you up and show you all the locations and guide you up the climbs 🙌🙌

Regards

Craig



Blackcat1
Location: South Wales, southern part of LFA 7



Re: Cad west

by Blackcat1 » Sun Feb 17, 2013 8:42 pm



Or just sit in their beer gardens and watch the jets from there, more relaxing ;-)

Gareth

6 Sqdn Canopeners
Oculi exeriolus
Blackcats remembered
Jaguar Force Excellence! 2nd July 07.



Michtheslik



Re: Cad west

by Michtheslik » Sun Feb 17, 2013 9:01 pm



Ah...public transport to the loop 🙌🙌

Nearest train station is Machynlleth (trains to Birmingham every hour). The X94 is also a useful bus that runs from Wrexham to Dolgellau. - <http://www.arrivabus.co.uk/serviceinfo...px?id=2501>

When you're in the loop public transport is a pain. Until recently, Arriva offered the X32 bus that ran between Dolgellau and Machynlleth. This route follows the cad pass and there's an unsigned, but legitimate bus stop at the layby for cad west. Similarly there's an unsigned stop at the little chef outside of Dolgellau (a 5 minute walk from the fantastic bunkhouse/campsite mentioned above)

The route is now run by Lloyd's coaches and is a reduced service compared to when Arriva ran it. I haven't been since this change, but I believe the relevant buses are the T2 - http://www.gwynedd.gov.uk/gwy_amserlen_...sanaeth=T2 and the X27 - http://www.gwynedd.gov.uk/gwy_amserlen_...anaeth=X27

Any questions feel free to ask 🙌🙌

.mic