



Bristly Ridge

Glyder Fach Main Cliff

Grade	1
Area	Ogwen Valley
Aspect	Northwest (800m)
Approach	60 mins (661 587)

Famous and justifiably so; perhaps the embodiment of North Wales scrambling. Seen in profile, the ridge's pinnacled crest takes on a fairytale form. It is beautiful yet looks impossible; two qualities that make it a compelling mountaineering line. The scrambling is far easier than appearance would suggest. The rock is littered with huge holds and despite being polished is not especially slippery when wet. To be savoured ahead of the masses on an early morning ascent.

Approach Follow the approach route from the Ogwen Valley to Cwm Bochlwyd, described on page 89. The distinctive pinnacled outline of Bristly Ridge comes into view as you reach the Cwm. It defines the left edge of Glyder Fach's main cliff, dropping down from the summit plateau to Bwlch Tryfan; the lowest point between Tryfan and Glyder Fach.

From the outflow of Llyn Bochlwyd, follow the good path on the left side of the lake. After 150m the path heads obliquely up the hillside towards Bwlch Tryfan.

From the Bwlch, follow the stone wall (southwest) to the foot of the lowest rocks forming the base of Bristly Ridge. At the wall's end, skirt rightwards beneath the rocks for 10m and ascend a short gully, exiting left to arrive at a small, incongruous man-made wall.

Behind the small stone wall is the entrance to a hidden, well-defined gully, often referred to as Sinister Gully. Contrary to its name this gully is the safest and most aesthetic way of gaining the crest of Bristly Ridge. It is important to make sure you have correctly identified the gully, which can be confirmed by looking for a large jutting prow of rock that overhangs the gully's narrow confines mid-way up. There are two other similar sized gullies, both of which have become perilously eroded at their exits resulting in stonefall danger.