

**Llyn Geirionydd** has a number of literary associations, not least with Taliesin (c534–c599), a Brythonic poet of Sub-Roman Britain whose work has possibly survived in a Middle Welsh manuscript, the *Book of Taliesin*. Taliesin was a renowned bard who is believed to have sung at the courts of at least three Celtic British kings, and was the earliest poet of the Welsh language. He lived on the shores of Llyn Geirionydd, where many claim he is buried. The Red Book of Hergest XVII, one of the most important medieval Welsh language manuscripts, contains the line: ‘I being Taliesin, from the borders of the lake of Geirionydd.’

The lakeside path passes the base of an old mine, after which you climb into a brief skirmish with tree roots before returning to the water’s edge. At the far end of the lake pass Ty Newydd, and then cross a stile giving onto a broad track. Here, bear right, following a broad trail as it rises into woodland. The main stands of pine are set back from the trail and fronted by sensitively planted broadleaved trees, so there is no sense of enclosure, and the walking is very agreeable.

When you reach a junction at SH755601, where the track divides, go left over a step-stile beside a gate, continuing to follow a broad track, but one that now escapes the trees. At another stile you return to a wooded area through which you descend to pass **Llyn Bychan**, a glorious little lake, its dark silky waters fringed by golden reeds and dotted with white water lilies.

Where the track divides at the first turning on the right after Llyn Bychan (SH751584), swing right into a section of woodland that is now much more enclosed for a while, but is no less agreeable. The track climbs steadily, and then suddenly, as you round a bend, Moel Siabod springs into view, framed by trees.

You leave the woodland at SH738579, and here cross a ladder-stile giving onto a path enclosed between a wall and fence, with fine views of Moel

