

Ystwyth and Rheidol Bridleway Routes



Route 1: Rheidol Valley

Route overview and terrain:

Mostly good tracks with fine views. One steep climb and one steep descent. Some short sections of exposed bedrock and a tricky stream crossing near Hafodau Cottage.

The route has been developed primarily for horse riders but is also suitable for mountain bikes and walkers.

Start:

This route starts just before the Reservoir at Cwm Rheidol SN694 795 where there are several large laybys suitable for vehicles with horseboxes .

Distance and approximate timings:

The route is about a half days ride of approximately 7.5 miles.

Useful Additional Maps:

OS Landranger 135 Aberystwyth & Machynlleth

OS Explorer Map 213 Aberystwyth & Cwm Rheidol



CEREDIGION County Council

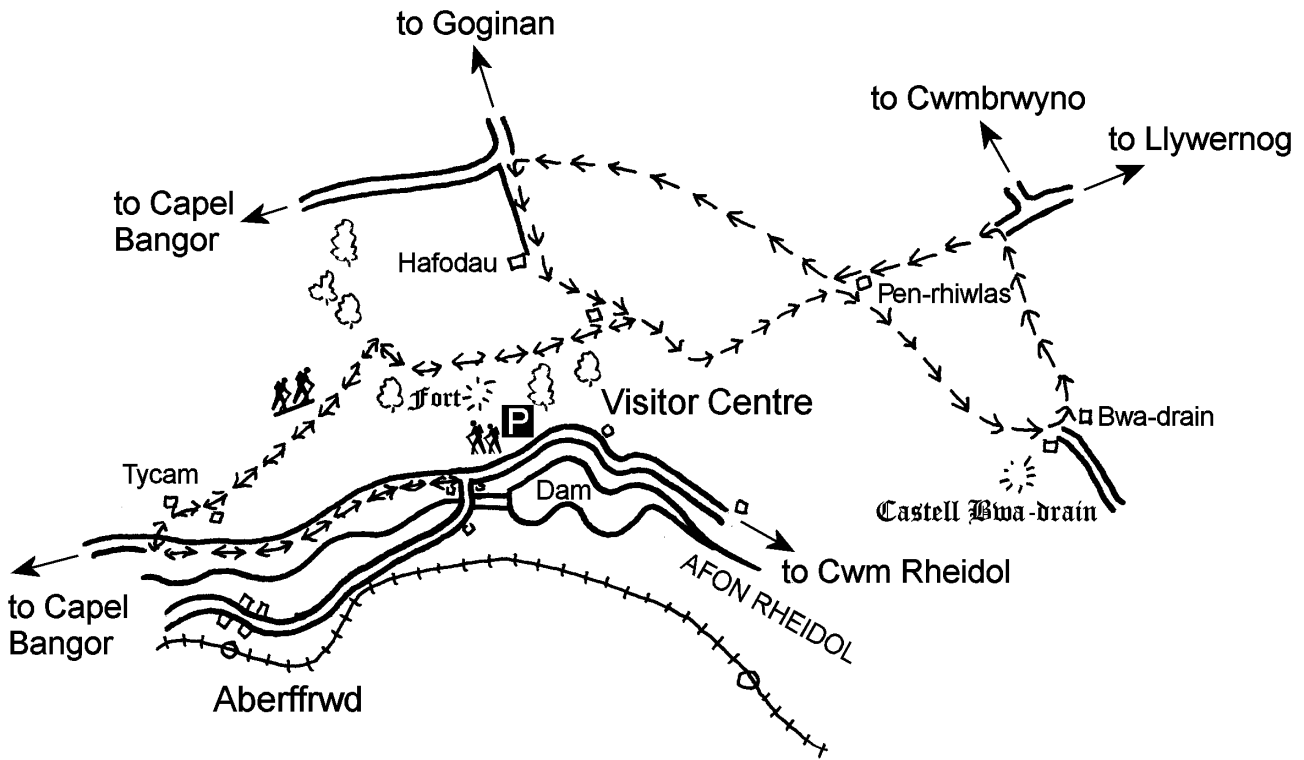
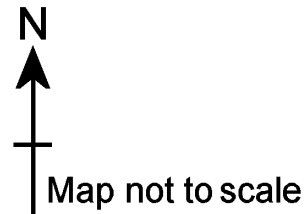


Cronfa Amaethyddol Ewrop ar gyfer Datblygu
Gwledig: Ewrop yn Buddsoddi
mewn Ardaloedd Gwledig
The European Agricultural Fund for
Rural Development: Europe Investing in
Rural Areas



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Rheidol Valley Map 1B



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Route Description:

From the Dam at Cwm Rheidol proceed west along the road toward Capel Bangor.

Where the road meets the foot of the steep hillside a road doubles back right. Follow this as it passes the farm *Ty Cam* and leads into a side valley. Behind the next farm the track crosses a stream then continues beside it passing a quarry then on to a bend below electricity cables.

Continue under the cables and up past a pond near to the site of the original farmhouse. Further on, the lane passes a hillfort before reaching Hafodau Cottage where a stream tumbles down into the plantation on the right.

Continue straight on into the stream bed, take care here as there are patches of exposed bedrock. The reward for the steep climb and negotiating this short tricky section is a route along a fine track with panoramic views into the valley below. The climb continues to a crest which opens up a fine view of Plynlimon, the highest summit in Ceredigion. The other prominent peak, nearer and to the left is Dysgwylfa Fawr.

A gentle descent leads to a sort of crossroads at a shelterbelt that screens the farm *Penrhiwlas*.

Turn right along a tarmac road that is gradually turning into a grassy lane. The hill on the distant skyline ahead now is Domen Milwyn, with Trawsallt (route 4) further to its right.

Route description(cont)



Beneath you, underground, a giant tunnel carries water from Nant y Moch to power the twin turbines at the Rheidol Power station below.

The road leads to Bwa Drain. The hillfort that shares the name of the farm dominates the skyline behind Pwll Dwfa, an intake for the hydro electric scheme.

Turn left at the junction just before the farm to climb out of the Rheidol valley alongside *Nant Bwa Drain*, below on the right. This small river too is regulated here, before tumbling dramatically down out of sight to meet the Rheidol in its own spectacular hanging valley. The wind farm dominates the skyline, the giant blades of the turbines churning round to feed the national grid through cables overhead.

At the T junction by a cattle grid turn left to climb steeply up towards the farm *Penrhiwlas* once more with fine views out west to Cardigan Bay.

Wheel open the gate and continue past the farmhouse, then turn right at the crossroads with fine views to Cwmbwrno below with Goginan beyond in the valley way below.

Take care here as there are sections of exposed bedrock where the track has been hewn out of the hillside.

Continue over the crest of the ridge to leave the noisy Melindwr valley behind and return to the rather more tranquil side valley once again. The track follows the crest of the ridge heading in the general direction of Pendinas, the prominent hillfort above Aberystwyth.

At a crossroads past a gate with a kissing gate beside it turn left to drop down on tarmac once again past the farm *Hafodau*, nestled in the cwm. The tarmac peters out as the route climbs up onto the next ridge and follows the crest for a short while in another fine location before beginning the descent back down into the valley below.

Presently the junction is reached on the track used in ascent. Turn right to follow it back down past the hillfort, under the cables, past the two farms and back onto the road.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO FOLLOW THE COUNTRYSIDE CODE *If you have any queries concerning this route, please contact Coast and Countryside Section, Ceredigion County Council, Penmorfa, Aberaeron, SA46 0PA or by phone during weekday office hours on 01545 574141.*