

Ystwyth and Rheidol Bridleway Routes



Route 3: The Arch to Trawsgoed

Route overview and terrain:

This route is a fine circle through a variety of scenery. The route can be shortened or varied using the links between Rhos y gell, Mynydd Bach and Brynamlwg.

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

Start:

Described here commencing from the Forestry Commission car park at the Arch SN765755. Another possible starting point is at Black covert, Trawsgoed.

Distance and approximate timings:

The route is approximately 16.5 miles and is a full days ride. Shortening the route using the links will make it 11 miles long.

Maps:

OS Landranger 135 Aberystwyth & Machynlleth

OS Explorer Map 213 Aberystwyth & Cwm Rheidol



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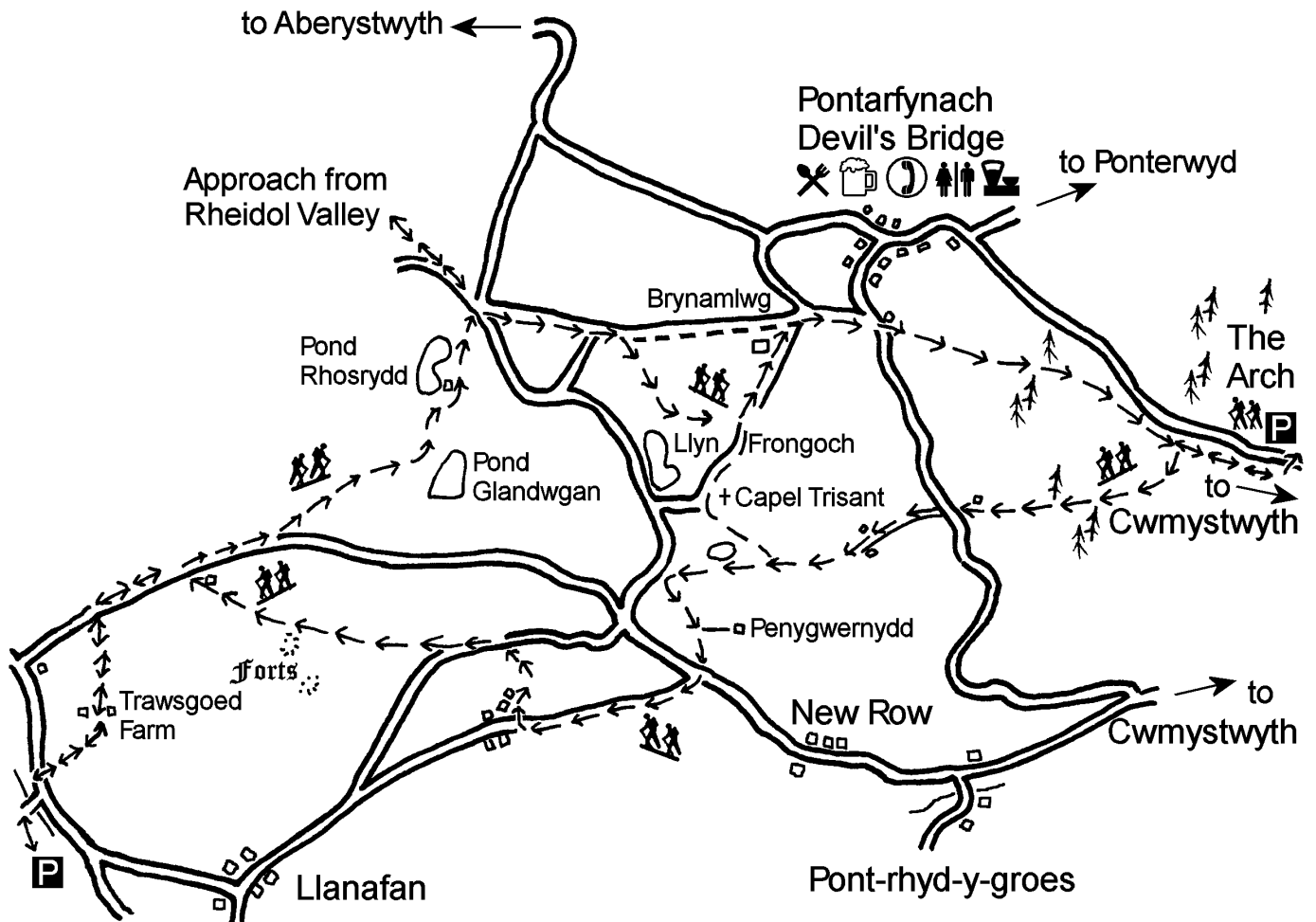
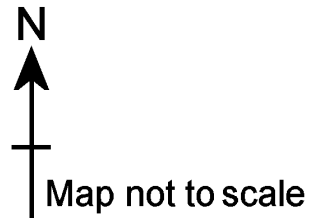


Cronfa Amsethyddol Ewrop ar gyfer Datblygu
Gwledig Ewrop yn Buddsoddi
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The European Agricultural Fund for
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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

The Arch to Trawsgoed Circular Map 3



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Route Description:

East of Devil's Bridge the B4574 climbs beside the Afon Mynach for a while before climbing steeply to the Forestry Commission Car Park at *The Arch*. (SN 765:755)

From the Car Park descend west past the stone arch and enter the bridleway on the left. Follow the good track that contours down the hillside parallel to the road ever further below on the right.

Just after the second cattle grid, at a junction, go left and climb up over the ridge to descend, on stretches of tarmac, to enter a somewhat hidden valley.

There is evidence of mining activity here in bygone days as the track passes the house and enters the conifer plantation to cross the Afon Brignant. Continue on a rough track heading down the valley between the foot of the steep slope and the stream.

The track leaves the forestry and the watercourse to continue traversing the foot of the slope of Cynrau Bach to enter an enclosed lane leading down to the road, passing the house, Rhos cynrau.

Route Description (cont)

Turn right along the road then immediately left along a tarmac lane that descends towards the tiny hamlet Rhos y gell.

The road zig zags right then left to cross the stream and climbs past beech trees to a sharp bend from where a bridleway goes off right. Take this track that skirts the bog to a rather vague junction before the lake SN731 748.

From here there is the option to shorten the route (see shorter route description).

Otherwise continue along this track to contour round, above the lake under steep slopes. The track drops down past an old quarry, the spoil from which has encroached onto the right of way, to a house with an oven with a brick chimney in the garden. Turn right past the house to approach the site of the old *Frongoch* mine. Bear left below the sawmill, then descend left again before reaching the tarmac road. Follow a track down below a steep slope, Banc Llettysynod, to a stand of Scots pine trees near the entrance to *Penygwernydd*.

Continue down to the road on a good track, turn left then almost immediately take the tarmac road right (signposted *Llanafan*). Climb the steep slope with fine views back over the route taken. After a false summit the road passes by a farmhouse. On the left the nearby hill is the ancient Castell Grogwynion, beyond in the distance is the hinterland that is touched upon in route 4, on the climb to Trawsallt.

A final steep climb leads to the hamlet of Brynafan. Just after the final summit here turn right at a crossroads down a lane with a cluster of houses on the left. Leave the tarmac to enter an enclosed lane carrying straight on beside the hedge, then exit left at the end of it to cross a rather wet field. A pony sometimes grazes this field with the cattle. After the second gate, which is quite prominent on the skyline, turn left to pass by the barn and make for the house on the next skyline. The views from here are stunning.

Pass the house and pick up the track, the mountains behind you, the sea, with the Llyn peninsular, ahead. The track leads down to a tarmac road, turn left along this to pass by a couple of houses then turn right immediately after these onto another track that traverses the hillside through gorse bushes.

A short steep rise leads to a gate, go through it and follow the good track to another gate by sorting pens, turn right onto open ground, making for a waymarker post on the summit. Take in the breathtaking views then descend to a gateway below, the hills nearby to your left show evidence of fortification.

Drop down steeply with the hill fort of Pendinas with its prominent obelisk straight ahead to cross a small stream. Bear left on a vague track that approaches the fence then follow this down to pass another hillfort on the left beyond double fencing.

The route passes through woodland before emerging into a fine field between mature oak trees that leads down to the ford across the river near the footbridge. Follow the track up and around past the house to meet the road once again.

As for route 2, turn right and follow the road, which climbs steeply before levelling out and continuing along the valley with the stream below on the right.

At the end of the strip of forestry on the left, opposite a roadside mirror a bridleway sign points to a track that traverses the slope on the left. Follow this towards a house and go through the yard. Continue to climb with the stream on your immediate right passing by an old stone arched bridge and making for the steep sided valley beyond.

Route Description (cont)



Climb steeply out of this rather hidden valley to emerge onto a flat field, follow the field edge to exit left at the corner into a good track. Follow this towards the higher of the two ponds, *Rhos Rhyd*. Pond *Glandwgan* is below to your right.

The track crosses the dam then passes by the old house with its fine courtyard, on past the lake now below on the left to climb past beech trees to reach the road.

Route 2 goes left (north) at this point towards the Rheidol valley.

Go straight across, (east), to follow a tree lined tarmac road. Fine views open out northwards towards Plynlimon and beyond. A short rise leads to a junction. Turn left to where the old chapel house, *Mynnydd Bach*, stands hidden below on the left. Opposite this a track goes off right, follow this along a ridge, with fine views either side.

After passing the mast the track drops down to a gate below a small stand of conifers. Go through this and veer right at first with *Llyn Frongoch* below on the right, then left to reach a house. Turn right and follow the field edge to a rather obvious gate on the crest then drop down steeply to the road below.

This is where the shortened route merges

Turn left and follow the road down to a sort of cross roads, (the road ahead is a bridleway), by the house *Brynamlwg*.

Turn right and continue down on the tarmac road towards Devil's Bridge. In a dip a road joins from the left, ignore this and continue straight on briefly before rising to turn right at the next junction. Follow this quiet lane to meet the main road after passing the entrance to the community woodland *Coed Pobl* on the right.

Cross and go straight ahead with care alongside the dry stone wall, then go in left at the end of it along the bridleway signposted '*The Arch*'. Shortly after the gate beside the house an old stone well is still intact in the grassy verge above the track.

This grassy track climbs steadily to gain the ridge from where there are fine views down to Devil's Bridge with the Rheidol valley beyond.

Go over the crest and enter the forestry plantation. Go through it to emerge on pasture once more and continue along the obvious track onto familiar ground back to *The Arch*.

Shorter route

Described from the bridleway junction below the lake with no name on the OS map (SN 731:748)

Just after a culvert there is a rather vague junction before the lake. Go right here and cross boggy ground below the lake to gain a good track once more that climbs towards the chapel on the hilltop ahead.

Go past the chapel on tarmac to reach the road. Turn right and continue back into the hollow with Rhos y Gell on the right. Beyond, on the skyline, the summit of Trawsallt (Route 4) can be seen.

Climb gently past houses to a summit in the road from where a bridleway enters the hillside on the left.

Should time be limited or the weather poor the route can be shortened still further here by continuing straight on along the road to the 'crossroads' at Brynamlwg, as per the longer route description.

Otherwise reverse this section of the longer route by going left onto the bridleway that climbs steeply with fine views of the route taken so far. From a gate on the crest descend to a house then follow the good track left to follow the ridge. *Llyn Frongoch* can be seen below on the left.

Go left through a gate to climb past a small stand of conifers making for the mast on the skyline ahead. The track follows the ridge giving fine views before descending to the road.

Turn right and descend towards Devils Bridge and join the longer route description at the 'crossroads' at *Brynamlwg*.

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.

