

Ystwyth and Rheidol Bridleway Routes



Route 2:Llanilar Circular

Route overview and terrain:

A long circle using connecting ridges with fine views to link the Rheidol and Ystwyth river valleys.

The route takes in quiet country lanes and a disused railway line. There are good tracks with some steep climbs and descents on rough tracks and tarmac, some woodland trails and remote crossings of upland pasture - this route has it all!

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

Start:

Although described here as an anticlockwise circle from Llanilar, the route is dissected by the Ystwyth Trail giving various route options. Please note however that the main road crossing at Pisgah, SN 679:776, is much safer approached from the south, that is when travelling from Trisant towards the Rheidol valley.

Other possible alternative starting places are from the Rheidol valley and Black Covert, Trawsgoed.

Distance and approximate timings:

This is a full day's ride of approximately 21 miles.

Maps:

OS Landranger 135 Aberystwyth & Machynlleth

OS Explorer Map 213 Aberystwyth & Cwm Rheidol



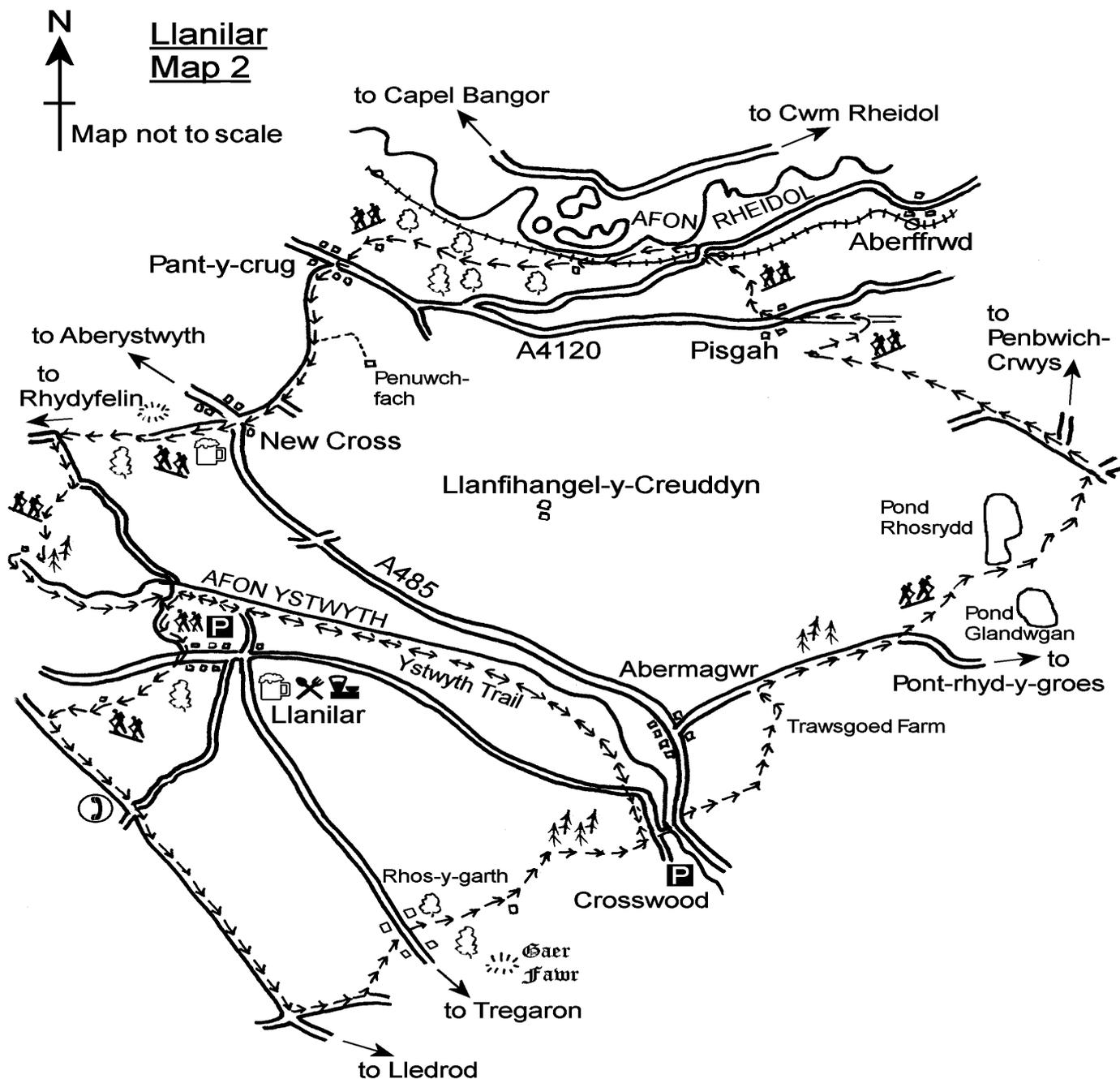
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Cronfa Amaethyddol Ewrop ar gyfer Datblygu
Gwledig: Ewrop yn Buddsoddi
mewn Ardaloedd Gwledig
The European Agricultural Fund for
Rural Development: Europe Investing in
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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



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Route Description:

From the mini roundabout in *Llanilar* a B road heads east towards *Trawsgoed*, immediately a road leaves this on the left, passes the churchyard and then the school. Follow it down towards the river via the right hand fork, to a car park.

Gain the old railway line and turn left along it for a short while, cross a wooden bridge with care before descending to a tarmac road that crosses the route at a wooden gate. Turn left along the road that twists and turns along the valley floor before climbing steeply up to the main road.

Go straight over with care (30mph speed limit), to enter a lane on the other side that goes up past cottages before entering the woodland beyond. This steep rocky track continues along the crest of a ridge before emerging onto pasture with fine views out west along the Ystwyth valley to the sea.

Route description(cont)

Enter a tree lined lane that leads to a house and skirt this on the left, following the track down over the stream then up to where the bridleway leaves it on the right. Enter the field and follow a rather wet track along its edge to a gate in the corner that leads into a rather pleasant lane that climbs up to the road.

Turn left along the tarmac road, taking time to pause by the ruin to admire the view northwards to Plynlimon and beyond. Continue straight on at a cross roads near a telephone kiosk to pass by a picturesque thatched cottage. After a short descent to cross a stream the road climbs steadily with the windfarm ahead and to the right. At the crossroads turn left, (signposted *Trawsgoed Crosswood*), the views from here are stunning.

The prominent hillfort of *Gaer Fawr* comes into view ahead. At the crest a lane descends left. With the entire length of the Lleyn peninsular as a backdrop, follow this down through gates to enter a rather wet lane to emerge into a field. Pass by the forestry plantation and enter a good track that leads to the main road at *Rhos-y-garth*.

Slightly downhill a bridleway enters the woodland opposite, cross the road with extreme care to enter the plantation and follow a rough track past saplings to cross a slippery wooden bridge with care. Leave the woodland to follow a fenced off strip of land that leads to a good track at a corner.

Turn right along this towards Llettymoel. At a sharp bend enter the field ahead, continue across fields, passing a small quarry and a ruin before reaching a culvert and climbing to join a good track once more beside a pylon.

Turn right to enter the forestry and follow the forestry road downhill. There are permissive bridleways within the woodlands here but this route adheres to the track that descends with the stream below it on the right until it reaches the stone bridge that once carried the railway line.

Those wishing to return to *Llanilar* from this point should follow the signposted cycle route along the railway line. Except for one road crossing where the stone bridge has been demolished this return route is straightforward and level.

Those wishing to follow the entire route should continue under the railway line, on tarmac now, to cross over the road with care, then onto the bridge that spans the river Ystwyth to reach the B 4575.

Turn left along it (signposted Aberystwyth) with extreme care before crossing almost immediately to enter the estate by the gatehouse. An avenue of elegant lime trees leads towards the farmland, a giant redwood stands behind them on the right and before the gate on the right there are some fine yew trees.

Continue between hedgerows, still on tarmac, (the mansion house can be seen behind on the right). At the junction just before the weather station turn left to pass through the busy farmyard, steer left and follow the track out to the road.

Turn right and follow the road, it crosses a stream and begins to climb. Go straight ahead at the junction and climb more 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 onto 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 emerge onto the road at a crossroads. (Route 3 continues straight ahead).

Turn left along the tarmac road that descends to a junction, take the left fork and continue across the head of the steep sided gash in the landscape that is *Cwm Magwr*. Follow this road, which has grass growing along its centre strip as it climbs and swings left. Just before the summit a bridleway goes off right at a junction marked by a grassy hump, evidence of human habitation long ago.

Take this and follow the field edge path, still climbing, to reach a summit with fine views of *Cardigan Bay*. Descend gently towards the sycamore trees ahead, these too are obvious signs of previous human habitation. To the left of the grass covered foundations a gate leads into a field, enabling access back onto the old track that leads to a dip on the summit ahead.

To reach it this now rather vague track crosses the head of another steep sided valley with a westerly aspect that descends to the settlement *Llanfihangel-y Creuddyn*. Beyond this, *Llanilar*, the start point of this route, can be seen in the distance.

Ahead the hillfort of *Pendinas* hopefully comes into view and by using the tower on its summit as a marker, make for the right hand of the two gates to continue the descent along this delightful ridge.

At the next gates set side by side follow the slightly sunken lane through the left one.

After another gate look out for a copse of Scots pine trees down on the right below some hawthorns on a disused boundary. Immediately before the next wooden gate, double back right, traversing the steep bank on a track that heads down towards the base of the pine trees.

Route Description(cont)

Carry on down past the house, Cae Cwtta, to join the tarmac access road that climbs left to cross the stream next to the derelict footbridge. Negotiate the cattle grid to reach the tarmac road and turn left along it, past another cattle grid to reach the main road at Pisgah.

Go straight across to enter the enclosed lane directly opposite that leads steeply down into the Rheidol valley. The sunken tree lined lane makes for an interesting descent! Fallen branches and the precarious open ditch can be hazardous, this is a good hunting ground for sparrowhawks. Thankfully the gradient soon eases as the lane enters an open field and follows its edge below oak woodland to emerge onto the tarmac road just above the railway line.

Cross this with care and descend, passing stone outbuildings to reach a sharp bend in the road. A track goes off left, follow this, heading west along the valley floor, the railway above, the river below.

Cross the railway line and proceed towards Troedrihwfelin. Go right into the field below the house and traverse left, gradually climbing away from the railway line.

Enter the woodland and ford the stream. Go up the steps and on to a junction of two bridleways. Continue straight on past the house to join a tarmac lane that climbs steeply up through the woods and out of the valley. There is a verge of sorts at the side of this steep tarmac section that ends at the top of the woods.

Continue on a good track across fields to reach the main road.

Turn right and follow it for a short while, passing two monkey puzzle trees before turning left at the junction. Follow the minor road as it swings left and passes another monkey puzzle tree before descending into a dip with hedgerows on either side.

Climb back up out of the dip and continue on to the T junction. Turn right and follow this road over the crest with fine views. Drop down again to bear right at a junction and on to New Cross.

Go straight across the main road at the crossroads, pass by the pub and climb steeply on tarmac along the ridge.

Drop down slightly and look out for the track that goes off right at Molecatchers' Wood. Follow the tarmac road that is fast becoming a grassy track towards the mast on the horizon.

After passing the mast continue between hedgerows to enter a field with no hedgerow on the left. Continue alongside gorse round to a somewhat hidden gate on the right and follow the field edge through the next field before emerging onto the tarmac road at a corner.

Turn left and follow the road down until a track goes off right at a sharp left hand bend in the road. Go right here down past poultry sheds with good views out to sea.

The steep track goes under power lines at a bend with good views into the Ystwyth valley below. Turn right here and descend steeply beside the woodland. Negotiate a hairpin bend that gives access to the conifer plantation on your left before reaching a house.

Continue straight on down past the house on tarmac to join the Ystwyth trail. Follow it left over the river then go left again to follow the old railway line alongside the river.

Continue along the level valley floor to reach a tarmac road that might be familiar. Go straight across on familiar ground now to climb up onto the disused track, over the stream and back to the start point.

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.