



A lovely non-circular walk from Rheidol Falls Halt to Aberffwd station.

**3 km (just under 2 miles), about 1 hour.
To Rheidol Falls Halt on the 10.30 am train
from Aberystwyth. Return on the train at 12.50
pm from Aberffwd station.**

A steep climb up from the little Rheidol Falls Halt through the forest opens out into a lovely easy downhill amble with excellent views westward towards the lower Rheidol valley. To alight at Rheidol Falls, please warn the guard, as this is a request stop only. Catch a train back from the passing loop station of Aberffwd with its verdant trees, two platforms and desperately steep road/rail crossing!

1. From the single platform of Rheidol Falls Halt, cross the line, go through the pathway gate, follow the small path at first behind the railway fence, and then zig-zagging up through the forest above. Keep to the main path going up, don't be tempted by an even steeper short-cut that appears to the

left quite high up. Soon after this, the path bears across to the right for some way, then swings left between small ridges, and meanders up to a stile. Across this stile it continues with open land to the right keeping the forest boundary fence on the left. Very soon you meet a barbed-wire fence blocking your way, at which point turn right and follow this fence up over the top of the open hillside. Once over the crest of the hill, spot a stile ahead of you with a right-of-way signpost. In the distance you may notice the main Aberystwyth to Devil's Bridge road, but across the stile you are on a small surfaced lane that descends down the valley towards Aberffwd.

2. Turn right downhill on the lane, then after about 300 metres, turn right through a gate onto a wide clear bridle track. This contours round the hillsides, gently descending to the empty farm buildings of Pant-mawr. You will see ahead that very soon after the buildings, and through a gate, the track turns sharply right, but your right-of-way is actually straight on at this corner...It looks too steep, but if you backtrack a little you will find indistinct paths skirting down off the track to the left between the group of trees lining the edge. Keep immediately downhill of the trees and gorse bushes, and you will emerge into open meadowland. Notice the gap in the fence in the middle distance ahead which requires you to descend gradually across the field. Then once through the gap, contour round towards the forest, keeping at about the same level

on the steepening hillside, following the indistinct path where you can. Straight ahead of you, at a forest corner, look carefully to spot a small gate carrying a bridle path waymark at the forest boundary.

3. Going through the gate the way immediately becomes a reassuringly clear and lovely bridle path through the forest, descending gently on pine needles and moss, eventually meeting a messy confluence of forestry tracks. Head straight across this muddy mess to pick up the lovely path again and then after crossing one more forestry track you find yourself walking round to the right, parallel to the railway in a cutting below. Soon the path is crossing the line at a gate, but be aware that this is NOT the station, and there is still a fair way to walk.

4. Go down a field track to a gate onto a surfaced lane, where you turn left towards Aberffwd. The lane first passes between farm buildings, but once you reach the houses of this tiny hamlet, turn sharp left back on yourself on the hairpin bend and walk steeply uphill on the lane to arrive at the station adjacent to where the lane crosses the line. Trains always stop at Aberffwd, and on yellow and green timetable days 'up' and 'down' trains pass here. If you have chosen the wrong platform, don't worry, the trains stop for long enough for you to use the crossing point.

