

Llanbister Road railway station to Pen-y-bont railway station

14km

With link to Pen-y-bont station

3km

1. From the platform of Llanbister Road Railway Station walk up steps to the road. Go left over the railway bridge and then right at the junction signposted to Dolau. Walk along the road and look for the first field gate on the left. Go through here and climb up the hillside by the hedge on the right. Proceed through a second gate and continue with a hedge now on the left. Just beyond the top left corner pass through another gate and walk ahead to drop down to yet another field gate at the next boundary at the bottom of the field. Once through, climb steeply up a bank keeping slightly right. Continue in a similar direction, aiming for the buildings at Rhos farm. Descend through two small gates in fences and onto a tarmac lane.

2. Staying on the lane, go left to pass Rhos Farm and follow it up the hillside to reach a junction. Keep ahead on a track which passes through a field gate and descends into the valley. On reaching a stream, go through a field gate, turn left and then right to rise up the next pasture to another field gate beneath a line of veteran ash trees. Now climb more steeply to the summit. Take a look back at the panoramic view before you reach the crest. From here you can see the brooding mass of Radnor Forest ahead, an extensive hunting forest in medieval times. You will also see St Michael's Hall and pool to the left.

3. Tempting though it is, do not follow the track down the hillside. Your way is roughly half right from the waymark post, below the brow of the hill and aiming towards a conical hill in the distance. There's a waymark post to help guide mid field to help guide you down to the field gate. Go through it and drop down to the pool below; it sometimes dries out in high summer. Continue ahead, beyond these old fish pools, to climb up the hillside alongside a fence to your left, passing sheep pens at the top. You now join a clearer track which descends to a gate leading onto a lane.

4. Go left and walk along this quiet back lane as it winds down to a main road. Cross with care and follow the byway on the right, which climbs

gently towards a pocket of woodland. You pass by two old railway fruit vans. You soon reach a field gate on the track. About 150 metres beyond keep a look out for a fork in the track; keep left here on the lesser track which bends slightly left to a junction. Continue ahead, ignoring a track merging from the right to rise up through a gate; the track soon bends left to another junction. Take the right fork to dip down and follow the track as it curves right to a gate. Continue ahead to another gate, then along a wet section (in winter) beneath a coniferous wood. Descend to yet another gate where you'll see Old Hall to the right.

5. Keep ahead at the junction by a barn on the right and a pool on the left. Proceed through a gateway and field gate. Now climb up a tree lined sunken track and go through another gate at the top as it bends to the right. Walk ahead to a junction, where you keep left, ignoring a cattle grid and gate ahead. Continue to climb on the track, through a gate and onward to a cattle grid. Walk through two more gates by a barn and then drop down to a cattle grid after a junction for Pen Rochell farm. Keep ahead over the grid and on the track ahead until you reach a lane, where there's a station link to or from Dolau Station.

Station Link: *For those wishing to finish their walk at Dolau station, there's a link of just over a 2 km, (1.2 miles). Go right down the lane, to the main A488 road. Cross the road and go left for a few steps to a sign for the village and a finger post. Turn right through a field gate, ahead through a small pasture and through another two gates, across a drive, and over a stile. Keep slightly right across a large field to cross a stile in the next boundary and proceed in a similar direction to a stile leading into a cul de sac. Walk through to the lane then turn right and follow it to Dolau railway station.*

6. Cross over and continue on a track between tall hedges until you meet another track coming in from the left. Keep right and drop down to a lane where there's a panoramic view ahead. Go left along this very quiet road which descends through a valley and then bends right through Cilmaennowydd farm. Continue to climb up to a T junction where you go right. Just after passing Rhonllwyn farm, keep right at the junction and rise up to pass the historic Pales Quaker meeting house. The road runs by an old quarry, through two field gates and cattle grid, to reach Penybont

common and as it bends right, keep ahead by an old gateway post onto the common; there's no clearly defined path across it.

7. Proceed slightly right over a stream and head in a similar direction across the common, covered in part with rush and gorse. Head for a waymark post on the common initially, and then a second one at the side of the A488 located to the right of an old poplar tree. On reaching the main A488 road, go left to walk on the green shoulder into Penybont, passing through a gate by a cattle grid, just before the Severn Arms Hotel in the centre of the village. Beware of traffic!

Station Link: *The main A44 road to Pen-y-bont railway station is potentially dangerous. There are two alternatives. The station link is just over 3.5 km (2 miles). With your back to the entrance to the Severn Arms Hotel go left to walk along the pavement by the Thomas Shop. Cross over and continue ahead over the bridge and out of the village until you reach a road junction. Cross back over to walk up the lane which rises to a gentle ridge. Then walk down the lane past a junction on the left and within a few metres another on the right. Follow the latter down the hill to the main A44 road. Go right on a narrow footpath which soon gives out, so you have to cross again to follow it up by old railway cottages to the turning on the left for Penybont station.*

The other alternative is to use the bus to reach Llandrindod Wells (or Pen-y-bont) railway station and take the train from there. The 461-462 Sargeants bus passes by the railway station entrance and terminates at Llandrindod Wells Railway Station (Mons-Sats only)

Walkers are welcome to download or photocopy these instructions, but please note that this text is copyright of Les Lumsdon as the author of the official guide to the trail.