

Pen-y-bont railway station to Llandrindod Wells 8km

1. *For those arriving by train at Pen-y-bont read the station link note in the previous section.* At Penybont road junction cross the road by the Severn Arms Hotel and turn left to walk along the front of the inn, but then cut right before the garage. A track leads down to the HQ of the local football club, bends right and then left to cross a footbridge over the flowing waters of the Ithon. Turn right to walk along the edge of the recreational ground and racecourse and then ease slightly left to proceed through a small gate adjoining double gates. Walk up the access road by houses to a lane. Turn right to walk to the corner.
2. Go left through a field gate to enter parkland and walk ahead to join a line of trees, bordering a pool to the right covered in reeds and grasses. At the top end, go through a small gate and along a tree lined path to a second small gate. Head slightly left across a pasture aiming for the second field gate; this leads into the next pasture, where you aim slightly right, climbing gently to a third field gate. There has been a diversion here at Brynmawr so older maps may well not show the new line of route. Cut left to pass between bushes down to another small gate and a winterbourne stream. Once over, head diagonally across the field to a gate leading out to a track and a road.
3. Turn right along the road, around a bend and beyond an electricity pole look for a finger post on the right. Go through two pastures and small gates and then proceed ahead until you reach a third small gate in the hedge. Go through it and head slightly right to exit at a field gate onto a lane. Go right and follow the lane through to the next junction. Keep ahead on a No Through Road. This rises up to Neuadd Isaf and then climbs again before a descent towards Neuadd. Drop down by a metal barn and a crossing of farm tracks where there's a small gate and finger post on the right leading into a field. Follow the track which bends slightly left to pass beneath Neuadd farm and through a gateway. Dip to the right on a track through a field gate or over a stile. There are fine views as you drop down into the Ithon Valley.

4. Continue on a green track down to a field gate and once through keep ahead to St Michael's church. Pass through the kissing gate to the churchyard and, after you've taken a look at this much loved place of worship, go left through a second kissing gate. Head slightly left down to Shaky Bridge; cross over.

5. At the far end go through an ornate field gate, then a kissing gate on the right and immediately left through a small gate into a pasture. The path climbs in a crescent shape up to a kissing gate in the top left hand hedge. When you are through, go right to climb a little more on to the road. At the junction keep left and follow the road until you see a path off to the left through a field gate; this is opposite Bailey Einon Farm.

6. Walk up the field to pass through a small gate by a field gate into the next pasture. Continue ahead along the hedge line to another small gate at the summit. Keep right to walk through a gateway (by an old broken stile) and then left through a small gate. Follow the green track which bends to the right along the shoulder of Bongam Bank. Do not follow the track all of the way up the bank; instead peel off slightly left, through scattered gorse and across a sheep pasture to aim for the pivotal point of the hedge. Cross the track and continue ahead in a similar direction towards a woodland belt, where you cross a path just before entering a dark tunnel beneath tall coniferous trees. The path joins another and gives out on the right at a stile into a pasture.

7. Head very slightly left over to the nearest end of a gorse bank, where you'll see a narrow path dipping down the bank between gorse bushes to a small gate. Proceed through woodland, keeping above a stream as the path leads down and eases slightly left to a gate in fencing by houses at Gorse Farm Estate. This exits onto to a road.

8. Cross over and follow the narrow path between gardens through to the same road. Go right and look for a corralled path on the left by a garden hedge. This bends right and then left to a kissing gate at a junction of paths. Head very slightly right up a field to cross a stile into rough ground, where you follow a compacted surface ahead. At the junction of paths go left and immediately right, so as to effectively continue straight ahead, rising up the hillside beneath a comforting canopy of woodland, part of

the Lake Park at Llandrindod Wells. Go right at the crossroads to follow the path down to a road at the Lake.

9. Cross the road and turn left to walk along the water's edge to a junction. Go right here to follow the path to pass by the old boathouse, now housing a café and restaurant. On reaching the road go left along Princess Avenue, left into Spa Road and across Temple Street (A483), ahead up Spa Road to pass by Temple Gardens and across the road to Middleton Street. Continue along what is Llandrindod's main shopping street to Station Crescent. Cut left here to the railway station and bus interchange.

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.