

Rhydyronen Loop - Hendy - Pendre

From the station at Rhydyronen there is a splendid walk up the steep-sided valley of Nant Braich-y-rhiw where, after crossing the stream, you turn sharp left to return to the station to start the second part of this route. If you have the stamina, and help with transport, you could continue in a south-easterly direction to cross into Happy Valley. However, to continue this walk you then accompany the railway for an easy walk back to Pendre, passing an area of Open Access Land (Tir Cymen) at Hendy. Here you can make a diversion to your walk and climb the hill to enjoy superb views over Cardigan Bay. At Pendre you can take the train to Tywyn: it is such a short ride you may wish to walk through the town. The total distance is about 4 miles. *Allow about 3 hours.*

1 Take the Talyllyn Railway to Rhydyronen Station. From the station walk to the road, turn right and cross over the railway bridge. Go through a gate and walk ahead along a waymarked lane, which soon forks. Walk to the LEFT, go through the gate ahead and walk up to Braich-y-rhiw. Go through the right-hand gate and walk by the farmhouse, going through two more gates and leaving by a very handsome, but ruinous, barn. Now continue ahead along a track, keeping a fence to your left. Go through a gate, and continue ahead. Go through another gate, and carry on, with trees to your left, and old mine workings up to the right. Pass through a gate and then climb a stile beside an old ffridd, or livestock pen. Now veer LEFT diagonally down towards the stream. Cross the narrow bridge and continue ahead, climbing the bank to reach a road.

2 Turn sharp LEFT and walk back down the lane, going through a gate and enjoying the expansive views ahead. After passing a small terrace of cottages on your right, do not turn right to return to the station but continue AHEAD, crossing a tall ladder stile and walking with the railway line on your right. Cross a stile beside a gate and continue ahead.

3 Go through a gate, cross a lane and go through another gate and continue ahead. Pass through three more gates beside the railway, then look out for another waymarked gateway, ahead but a short distance away from the railway line. Go through and continue ahead to reach yet another gate. Here you will find a little sign which indicates that much of the hillside to your left has been designated as Tir Cymen, or common land, where you are free



One of the first society-run trains. *Early 1950s.*

to enjoy yourself on foot. You can follow a courtesy path to reach this land, and then climb almost to the top of Graig Fach-goch to enjoy splendid views which, on a clear day, will encompass the coast stretching out to the tip of the Lleyn Peninsula and Bardsey Island. To continue the walk, go through the gate, veer to the right and go through another gate.

4 Cross the bridge over the railway. Now ignore a metal field gate to your right but walk ahead for a few strides, and then go through the wooden gate to the RIGHT to walk through the farmyard at Hendy, veering right and passing through another four gates before you leave the farm and walk along a tarmac driveway to reach the road. Turn LEFT. Walk along the lane, cross over the railway and continue until you reach Ty-mawr on the left. Now turn RIGHT beside a sturdy, but disused, stone stile and walk along a single track tarmac lane which widens as it reaches houses at the edge of Tywyn. Continue ahead to cross a level crossing at Pendre Station to rejoin the Talyllyn Railway.

Tir Cymen

This is a whole farm management scheme designed to benefit wildlife, landscape, public access and archaeology as well as a healthy farming economy. Agreements cover whole farms and last for a period of ten years. It is a basic condition of the Tir Cymen scheme that all *Public Rights of Way* are maintained in an unobstructed condition and are available for walking, riding and quiet enjoyment by the public, free of charge.

