

PWNW3: Aber Falls, Abergwyngregyn

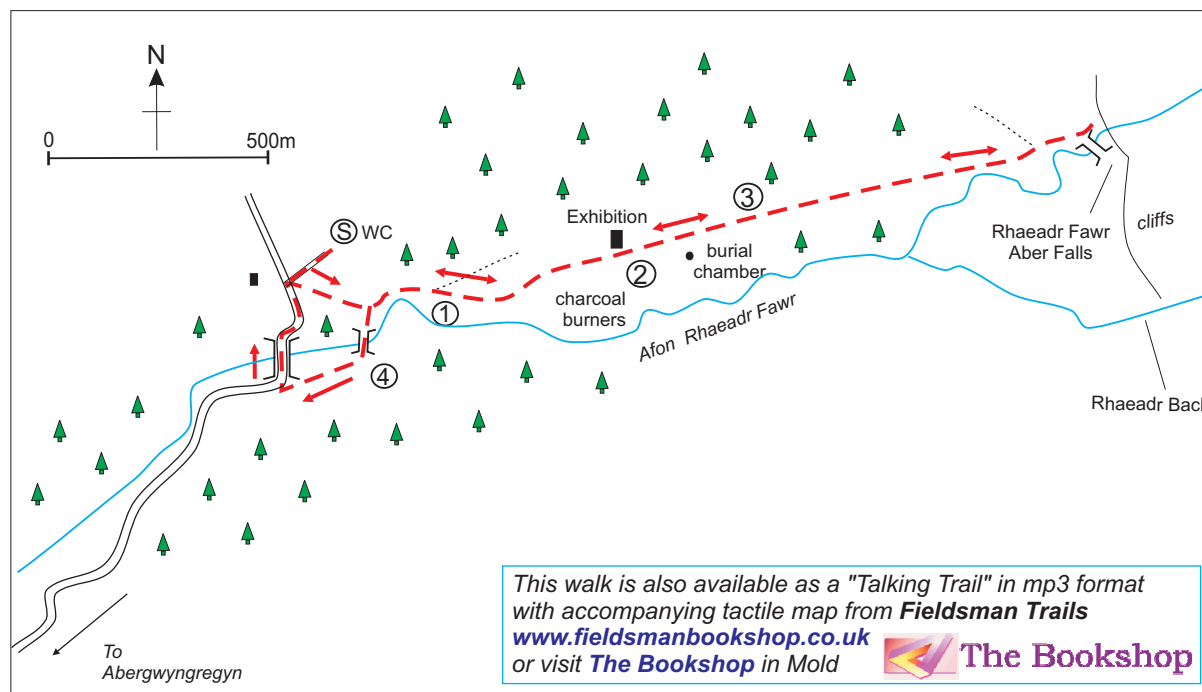


Outline Information

Distance: 3 miles (5km)
Time: 1 ½ hours
Grade: Moderate
Map: OS Explorer OL17
Grid Ref: 662720

Aber Falls is one of the highest waterfalls in North Wales at 40m (130'). The Welsh name is Rheadr Fawr meaning "big waterfall". On a fine day, there are stunning views of the Carneddau mountains, though the falls are best after heavy rain!

The waterfall is reached by walking up a pleasant wooded valley along side the river Aber. The valley is rich in history and biodiversity, with leisure and conservation side by side. Information on the past life of the valley is presented in an exhibition half way up the walk. There are plenty of picnic and paddling opportunities along the route.



Getting there

Turn off A55 at Abergwyngregyn. Drive through the village, following the signs to "Rheadr Aber Falls". Drive up a narrow country lane past a car park over a bridge. Take the first right and park in the 2nd car park (fee).

S. Walk back down the road and turn left down the gravel track and through a wide kissing gate. Head uphill from the kissing gate until you see an information board, which gives an outline of conservation work and ecology in the valley. Go through the gate (there is a wide kissing gate if the main gate is locked) and continue uphill along the gravel track.

1. Ignore a path to the left through the plantation and carry on up the gravel track to a small exhibition building on the left, with picnic tables and benches. *Find out about the nature and human history in the valley here.*

2. Continue up the track with the plantation on your left and views of the Carneddau mountains ahead and to the right. Benches are located at intervals along the track. *Charcoal burners can be seen to the right of the path and many of the trees in the woodland have been coppiced for charcoal making they can be recognised by numerous spindly trunks emerging from base of the tree. The exhibition gives a summary of life and industry in the valley through the ages. Look out for the bronze age burial mound on your right. You may also see wild horses along the track.*

3. The path narrows after the burial mound. Bear right along the track avoiding the steps. The track broadens again and continues to the base of the waterfall. As you approach the waterfall, there are several places where you can get down to the river side, though you will have to park the pushchair by the track. *The River Aber is the steepest river in Wales and England, though not on the section you've just walked! Over the falls there is a total descent of 70m, with the last 40m ending in a sheer drop. The waterfall is caused by a change in rock type, with the valley rocks eroding much more easily than the granitic rocks forming the cliffs.* Retrace your steps back towards the car park as far as the information sign. Here you can either head back along the road (double and lightweight buggies) to the car parks or take the scenic route along the opposite river bank (4).

4. 100m after the sign, turn left before the kissing gate you came through earlier. Go through a gate and over a wooden bridge to walk along the opposite river bank. Bear steeply right along a narrow path, which is rocky in places. Go down 21 easy steps, past a picnic table to a sculpture/bench. Head left past the sculpture to avoid steps up from the lower path. Go through the kissing gate (just navigable!), cross over the road bridge and turn immediately right to return to your car.

Enjoyed this walk? Then why not try **PWNW7 Newborough Warren** or **PWNW1 The Miner's Track**?