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HAFOD Near Aberystwyth



How to get to Hafod

Hafod is open to walkers all year round, free of charge. Some walks are suitable for more experienced walkers only, and strong footwear is recommended for all.

By road, Hafod is 15 miles (24 km) from Aberystwyth. The car park is on the B4574 between Pontrhydygroes and Cwmystwyth (SN 768736).

Public transport: Hafod is 3 ½ miles (5.5 km) from the Devil's Bridge terminus of the Vale of Rheidol Railway (no service in winter).

There are five way-marked walks, of varying length and difficulty, enabling visitors to explore the Hafod landscape on foot.

All are signed from the church car park, where a guide map can be purchased from a dispensing machine (takes 2 x £1 coins). The guide map is also available from Tourist Information Centres, by post from the Estate Office.



Lady's walk (Moderate; 3.6 km)

One of two classic circular routes created by Thomas Johnes in his first years at Hafod and described by many early visitors. It takes in scenery that varies widely in character, contrasting the relatively gentle landscape of open parkland with narrow wooded valleys and rushing streams.

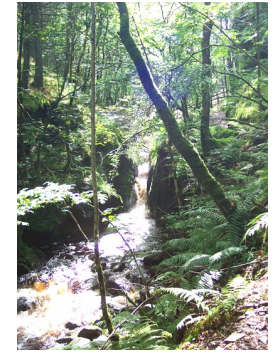
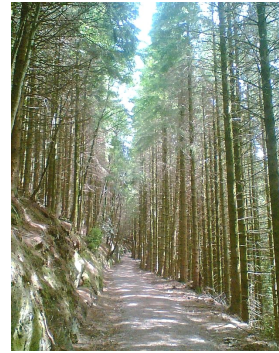
Ystwyth Gorge Walk (Moderate; 1.5 km loop)

Connecting with Lady's and Gentleman's Walks. A spectacular route with views of the Ystwyth in its rocky gorge. The river is crossed by means of the Chain Bridge - a narrow suspension bridge restored on its historical site. Gradients are relatively gentle, but it is not a route suitable for those who dislike steep drops beside the path.

Historic Hafod

Hafod Uchtryd, 12 miles south-east of Aberystwyth, is recognised as one of the finest examples in Europe of a Picturesque landscape. Its most celebrated owner, Thomas Johnes (1748-1816), built a new house in this remote location and laid out its grounds in a manner suited to displaying its natural beauties in sympathy with the 'Picturesque principles' fashionable at the time, with circular walks allowing the visitor to enjoy a succession of views and experiences. Johnes also used the land for farming, forestry, and gardening, in each case trying out new ideas and experimental methods. Hafod became an essential destination for the early tourist in Wales.

Today the Hafod estate occupies some 200 hectares of the Ystwyth valley and surrounding hills. Most is owned by the Forestry Commission who, in partnership with the Hafod Trust, is managing a conservation and restoration project with public and private funding



Gentleman's Walk (Strenuous; 6km)

Start of walk is 1.6 km from the car park. The second celebrated Picturesque circuit created by Johnes. Starting at the Alpine Bridge, it passes through wilder scenery and steeper ground than the other walks at Hafod. It connects with several public footpaths, and has a branch leading to the Cavern Cascade.

Coed Hafod Walk (Moderate; 1.2 km one way)

4km circular distance from car park using other estate paths or drives for the return route. This walk through different woodland types with varied wildlife is particularly colourful in spring. It affords fine views over the parkland and to distant hills.

Bedford Monument Walk (Moderate; 1.6 km)

A short and relatively gentle walk, with two short steeper sections. There are good views over the estate, especially from the obelisk. Mariamne's Garden (not yet restored) can be visited from this route.