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Photographing the BLS

Some vantage points at Kandersteg
by Richard Pinner

During a stay in Kandersteg I discovered three good vantage points from which to observe, photograph or film trains. Sketch maps (not to scale) are provided to help locate the sites.

No.1

About ten minutes walk from the station

Starting from the station square, walk along the path between the Ice Rink and the railway (opposite the Kiosk). When you come to its end by the River Kander, turn right under the bridge, then left on the road across the river and again take the path to the right. At the top of the rise you will find a bench, this is an excellent spot for photography.

The best light is in the morning, in the afternoon the sun is behind the trains.

No.2

About ten minutes walk from the station

Take the path starting in the north-west corner of the square. You walk with the railway on your left and, after a few minutes, with the River Kander on your right. Following the river, you turn away from the railway but eventually come back just by a footbridge across the river. From here you can photograph train extremely well and you have an inspiring view of the mountains as well. On the left is the Altels, followed by the two Rinderhorner and, on the right, the Gellihorn.

If you come from the village, walk along the main road northwards (down the valley), past all the shops and hotels. Opposite the small Hotel Buhlbad is a path across the fields to the footbridge.

The best light is in the mornings.

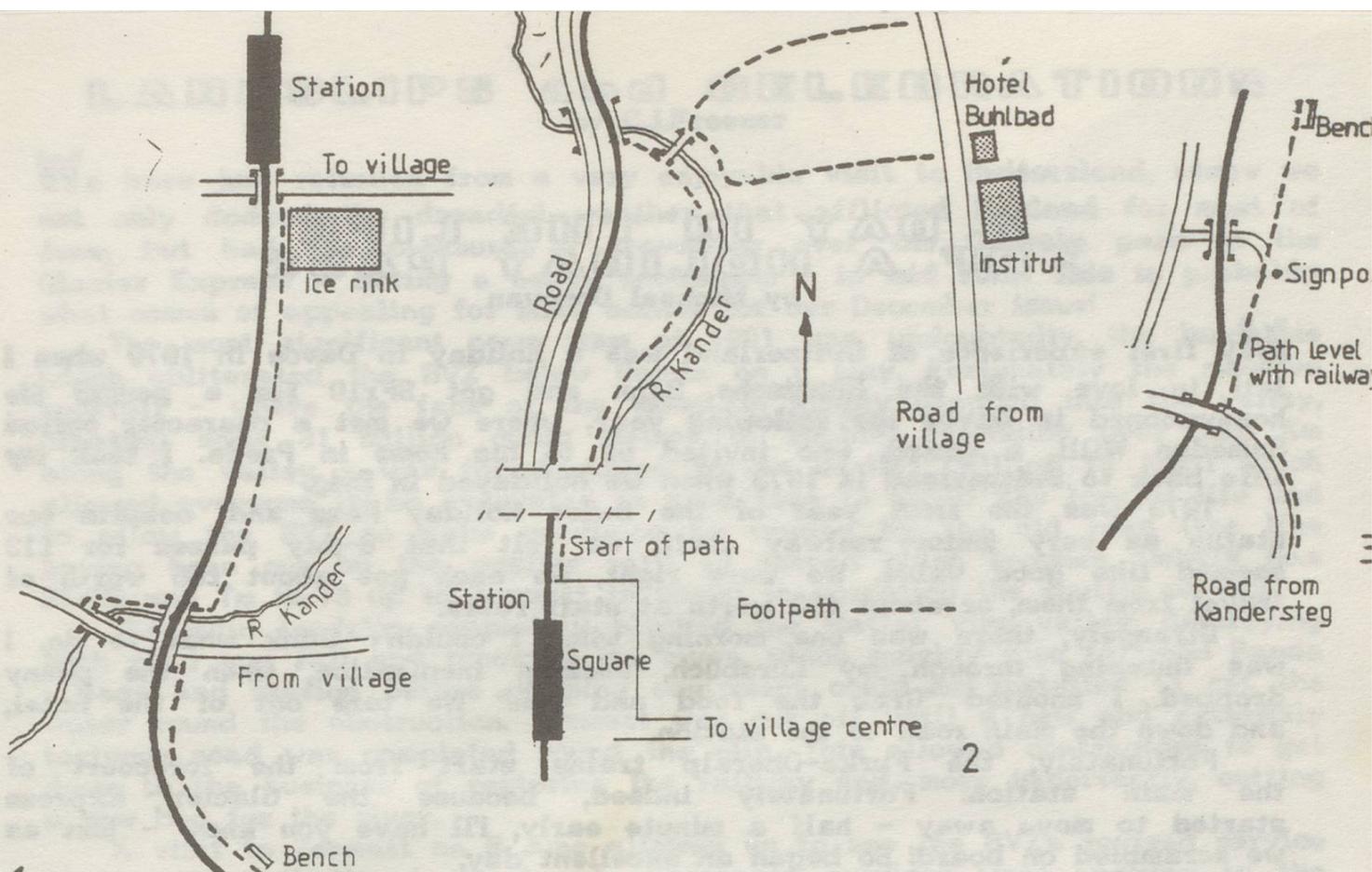
No.3

About 15 minutes walk from the village centre

This spot is on the High Level walk, Northern Ramp; the signposts say *Hohenweg Nordramp BLS*.

Walk along the main road northwards (down the valley) past all buildings until you are out of Kandersteg. Just before the bridge, the path starts on the right, along and above the railway. After a minute or so, past the fences, you come down and are level with the tracks. The path becomes a metalled road leading under the railway to the main road. Continue along the path uphill to a bench.

As well as the tracks immediately in front of you, there is a complete panorama of the Northern Ramp. In the distance is Frutigen, towards the right you see the first loop, Blausee-Mitholtz station, the Felsenburg (ruin) and the old linesman's house (Waterhaus) on the top level. At the back is the Nielsen chain of mountains.



1 Sketch plans showing vantage points

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