

Three Circles Of Machen
Saturday 2nd October 2021
12 mile route description

This route description is designed to be used in conjunction with a map and is a guide only.

Key:

T JCN – T Junction, TR – Turn Right, TL – Turn Left, BR – Bear Right, BL – Bear Left,
SO – Straight On, RD – RD, TK – TK, X – Cross, FB – Footbridge, ST – Stile,
LMG – Large Metal Gate, LWG – Large Wooden Gate SWG – Small Wooden Gate,
KGT – Kissing Gate, MCB – Magnetic Compass Bearing, FLD – Field,
YDS – Yards, LHS – Left hand Side, RHS – Right Hand Side,
FPS – Footpath Sign, WMS – Waymarker Sign

1. Leave hall & BR to reach RD. Follow LH pavement & just before RD T JCN, X RD **carefully** to X FB with green railings. At end of FB X RD **carefully** to pavement & SO uphill. At top of hill & follow RD as it bends sharply to the L (Rhyd-y-Gwern). After 120 YDS (FPS) TR sharply onto concrete TK. At Y JCN (in front of house), BL (WMS) to pass green & white metal barrier & enter woodland. Ignore path on RHS & remain on main path to reach staggered X TKS (WMS) (stream on RHS). SO initially uphill & remain on main path to reach KGT on the RHS immed before deforested area. Thru & SO to reach WMS. Enter FLD & SO (240°) to reach established trees next to fence corner. SO & follow RHS fence to reach LMG (WMS). Thru & SO to reach RD (**care needed**). **(ST 204 882)**
2. SO along RD (**face oncoming traffic**) & after 480 YDS reach ST next to LMG (FPS). X ST & SO to reach ST next to LMG. X ST & after 10 YDS reach ST next to LMG on RHS. X ST & follow broad path across FLD (200°) to reach ST next to LMG (hidden behind large tree). X ST & SO into woodland & after 60 YDs reach path JCN. SO initially uphill to reach ST next to LWG. Ignore ST & remain inside woodland & after 200 YDS reach path JCN at small clearing. BR downhill & after 80 YDS reach path T JCN. TR & after 550 YDS reach RD (**care needed**). **(ST 194 873)**
3. TL & after 25 YDS reach FPS on RHS. TR & up steps to reach ST. X ST & X FLD to reach top RH corner of FLD (Rudry Parish Hall above). Then follow RHS hedge to reach ST (FPS). X ST to reach RD. TR carefully (**face oncoming traffic**) & after 30 YDS BL leaving RD. After 20 YDS, ignore FPS on the LHS & remain on tarmac lane. When lane BR (FPS) (Derwen Fferm), SO leaving tarmac lane to reach KGT next to LMG (Derwen Farm). Thru & SO along stony TK. When stony TK BR, SO leaving stony TK to reach KGT. Thru & after 15 YDS reach path fork. BR & after 50 YDS reach path JCN. SO & after 390 YDS reach path T JCN. TR & after 35 YDS reach park fork. BR & after 475 YDS & as path levels out with large trees & dry stone wall on RHS, reach path JCN. TL uphill (235°) & after 10 YDS ignore broad path on RHS. Uphill to reach summit of Mynydd Rudry marked with small concrete block topped with small metal square. **(ST 181 869)**
4. SO & after 60 YDS reach rocky outcrop. Immed after outcrop TL downhill to reach path T JCN (steep drop ahead). TR downhill to reach path X TKS (copse of silver birch trees on RHS). SO downhill ignoring paths to L&R & follow path into woodland. Ignore any paths to L&R & after 300 YDS reach multi path JCN (stone pillar WMS). SO (200°) to reach KGT. Thru to reach RD. TL carefully (**face oncoming traffic**) & after 100 YDS reach KGT next to green & white barrier. Thru & BR onto lower TK passing thru green & white barrier & after 710 YDS reach forestry TK JCN (railway tunnel air shaft on RHS). TL & uphill to reach path T JCN (stone WMS). TR & follow path uphill to reach 2 x SWGs. Thru & after 15 YDS reach path T JCN. TR & after 40 YDS reach path fork. BL uphill & after 625 YDS reach SWG next to LWG. **(ST 170 849)**
5. Thru & SO initially downhill. After 80 YDS reach path JCN. SO downhill to reach LWG. Thru & SO & after 70 YDS path becomes very sunken & muddy. Downhill steeply to reach path T JCN (WMS). TR downhill & after 130 YDS reach concealed path JCN on LHS (WMS on tall wooden post). **(ST 172 845)**
6. TL sharply (golf course now on RHS) & after 640 YDS reach path T JCN (bench on LHS) (WMS). TR & follow broad path to reach LWG (WMS). Pass thru gap on the LHS & SO along driveway & after 500 YDS reach LMG (probably open). Through to reach RD. TL carefully (**face oncoming traffic**) & after 40 YDS & as RD bends to the R reach RD JCN on LHS. TL uphill steeply & then levels out. After 520 YDS as RD BL, reach LMG on the RHS. Pass thru gap on RHS & SO along TK & after 565 YDS reach mast & remains of Cold War Command & Control nuclear bunker on RHS. **(ST 190 851)**
7. SO remaining on TK & ignore all paths to L&R & after 470 YDS reach SMG. Thru & after 70 YDS reach path JCN (stone WMS). TL downhill & after 230 YDS, TK will become a broad stony forestry TK & bend to R. Remain on forestry TK & after 730 YDS reach forestry TK T JCN (stone WMS). TR & after 185 YDS reach staggered path JCN (stone WMS). TL & leave forestry TK to reach SWG. Thru, into FLD & BL (20°) to reach large trees. Pass trees, BL & follow LH FLD edge to reach ST in bottom LH corner of FLD. **(ST 201 861)**
8. X ST & after 200 YDS reach path T JCN. TR & after 315 YDS reach LMG (WMS). Thru & BL (120°) to reach WM post between trees. Pass & SO (90°) to reach KGT. Thru to reach RD. TL carefully (**face oncoming traffic**) & as RD BL at RD JCN,

SO & after 10 YDS reach Y JCN. BR on wide TK. Follow TK, passing grey metal barrier (probably open) & after 1200 YDS in total, pass house to reach TK JCN (horse dressage area on RHS) & KGT ahead. Thru (Coed Craig Ruperra) & after 360 YDS reach path X TKS (WMS). SO initially uphill to reach KGT. Thru & SO, initially uphill to reach path Y JCN with grass bank topped with stone wall directly in front (Coed Craig Ruperra Motte). **(ST 223 867)**

9. BR & after 50 YDS reach path Y JCN. BR & downhill to reach KGT next to LWG. Thru & after 10 YDS reach path JCN (WMS). SO to reach path JCN (bench on LHS). BL, remaining on main path & downhill & after 700 YDS reach path T JCN (WMS). TR sharply downhill to reach X TKS (WMS). SO downhill to reach SWG. Thru & into FLD. Follow RH FLD edge downhill to reach ST in bottom RH corner. X ST & SO & pass green metal barrier to reach RD. **(ST 221 873)**
10. TL sharply with care & follow RD **(face oncoming traffic)** & after 175 YDS & immed after Beech Cottage on the RHS, TR up concrete driveway. Immed before LWG to Primrose Cottage TL onto enclosed path between fences (WMS). Follow path uphill into woods. Follow path, steeply at times & ignore all paths to L&R & remain on main path & after 700 YDS reach Y JCT. BL & after 20 YDS reach forestry TK (stone post). X forestry TK & SO along forestry TK opposite (stone WMS) & after 1.1 miles reach forestry TK T JCN. **(ST 211 885)**
11. TL & after 365 YDS reach LMG. Pass thru gap on RHS to reach RD. TL carefully **(face oncoming traffic)** & follow RD downhill ignoring all JCNS. At the bottom of the hill, BL onto FB with green railings. At end of FB, X RD **carefully** to pavement opposite & TL. BR into car park & return to Machen Village Hall.

(Total Distance 12.9 miles)

Maps: Landranger 171; Explorer 151, 152, 166.