

**Three Circles Of Machen**  
**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2021**  
**8 mile route description**

**This route description is designed to be used in conjunction with a map and is a guide only.**  
**All measurements taken from MemoryMap.**

**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, CW – Cambrian Way  
FPS – Fingerpost Sign, WMS – Waymarker Sign NCN – National Cycle Network

1. Leave hall & BR to reach RD. Follow LH pavement to reach RD JCN. TL & immed after United Service Club X RD carefully to RH pavement & SO up RD to reach RD T JCN. X RD **carefully** to pavement opposite & TR. At 1<sup>st</sup> RD JCN on LHS, TL (immed after Number 69). Uphill steeply & ignore all RDs to L&R (RD becomes Penrhiw Lane) & after 710 YDS & as RD BL reach FPS & LMG on RHS. SO uphill on stony TK leaving RD to reach LMG. Thru & SO to reach SMG. Thru & SO to reach TK T JCN. **(ST 203 905)**
2. TL downhill to reach RD & cattle grid. BL carefully & X cattle grid & after 20 YDS BL up stony TK. After 825 YDS reach WMS & path JCN on the RHS. TR sharply & downhill to reach KGT (FPS). TL thru KGT & downhill to reach Y JCN (WMS). SO downhill to reach TK T JCN (notice board on LHS). TL & after 470 YDS reach path JCN on RHS (Sirhowy Valley Walk FPS). BR downhill leaving main TK to reach stone building. SO & after 20 YDS reach path X TKs (LWG). TR down steps to reach tarmac driveway (Ynys Hywel). **(ST 187 911)**
3. TR passing red & white chain barrier (possibly not present) & driveway becomes a RD. Downhill to reach green metal barrier. Thru & after 25 YDS BR (NCN 47). After 50 YDS reach green barrier. Thru & SO & remain on tarmac path & after 1730 YDS pass picnic area to reach metal squeeze barrier (NCN FPS). Thru & SO & after 725 YDS reach stone building on LHS (public toilets) (NCN FPS). Immed after building TR sharply up stony TK & after 20 YDS TL sharply onto balcony path **(take care – drop on LHS)**. Pass thru gap between wooden fences & after 110 YDS reach path JCN. BR uphill & follow undulating path through deforested area. Path eventually enters woodland & after 810 YDS in total reach Y JCN (FPS). BR uphill (Mynydd Machen) to reach KGT (WMS). Thru & SO to reach KGT. Thru & SO (stream & pond on RHS) & up steps to reach wooden clad building. SO up driveway to reach LMG (probably open). Thru & at driveway fork, SO uphill to reach RD. **(ST 222 909)**
4. BR **(carefully)** steeply uphill & after 370 YDS reach cattle grid (yellow grit bin & LMG on LHS). SO & remain on RD & after 880 YDS reach concrete TK on the LHS (wooden Mynydd Machen Common notice board). TL sharply & after 10 YDS reach cream metal barrier (probably open) (CW WMS). Thru & up concrete TK. Ignore all paths to the L&R & concrete TK will become a stony TK & after 1265 YDS pass communications mast to reach trig point at summit of Mynydd Machen. **(ST 224 900)**
5. SO downhill (130°) on wide rutted path to reach multi path JCN (WMS). TR (220°) & ignore all paths to L&R to reach KGT (CW WMS). Thru & enter woodland. Downhill & ignore all paths to the L&R & after 1330 YDS reach SMG (CW WMS). Thru & after 5 YDS reach X TKS. SO downhill & after 100 YDS reach path JCN. SO downhill to reach small FB. X FB & downhill ignoring all paths to L&R, passing CW WMS & down steps along enclosed path between fences to reach RD (FPS). SO downhill (St. John The Baptist Church on LHS) to reach RD T JCN. TL to reach pedestrian crossing. X RD **carefully** to pavement opposite & TR. At 1<sup>st</sup> RD JCN, TL (Forge RD) & immed after United Services Club X RD to RH pavement to reach RD JCN. TR, follow RH pavement & BR into car park & return to Machen Village Hall.

**(Total Distance 7.9 miles)**

**OS Maps: Landranger 171: Explorer 152, 166.**