

## Where Ravens Dare

### 15.5 mile route description – 29.09.15 version

This route description is to be used in conjunction with a map.

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

1. Leave Village Hall & BR across car park & TL on pavement to RD JCN (bridge on RH). TL to main RD (A468) & X RD to pavement opposite & TR. At 2<sup>nd</sup> turning on LHS (shop opposite) TL up Church St & pass church gates to end of wall on RHS (FPS). BR up enclosed FP & steps to FP JCN (WMS). BL & climb FP through trees (ignore side turnings). X plank FB & climb over flagstoned section to exit trees. SO on narrow FP to gate at entrance to forest. Through gate & climb main forest path. After 40 YDS BR & follow for 2/3 mile passing through SWG. SO (ignore path on LHS after 5 YDS) keeping fence on RHS to reach & go through KGT to exit forest. SO through bracken for 230 YDS (ignore side paths) to JCN with TK by WMS. TL up steep stony TK to reach trig point at summit of Mynydd Machen. **(GR 223 900)**

2. Leave the trig point on broad path (40°), keeping mast on LHS. Follow the broad path as it starts to descend & bend to the R. On descending, arrive at WMS. TL. At the next Y JCN, BR downhill. Arrive at minor lane. TL. Follow lane to arrive at RD JCN. TR, cross cattle grid & follow RD downhill. Near to RD sign 'Black Vein Mountain Road' TL and walk underneath the dual carriageway. **(GR 225912)**

#### **CHECKPOINT ONE - (Total Distance 3.1 miles & 1040 feet ascent) Opens 0900 Hrs - Closes 1100 Hrs**

3. SO, X river & enter built up area. At X RD's, SO into 'Black Vein Road'. (ignore RD on L -Waunfawr Gardens) to arrive at T JCN. X RD to pavement opposite & TR. At 1<sup>st</sup> JCN, TL into 'Medart Street' & SO towards railway. X railway line. Follow path, ignoring stone steps on LHS. Arrive at canal & X over stone bridge to arrive at KGT. SO & climb into woods remaining on main path ignoring paths to the L & R. After 140 YDS arrive at X TKS. SO. After 450 YDS (80 YDS after path becomes much wider) TR to pass between 2 fence posts with Raven Walk WMS & arrive at path JCN & TR. X ST & SO, following fence on RHS. The fence will go sharply to R. Follow & descend to ST. X ST & small stream. BR & walk uphill to ST. X ST to RD. TL & walk uphill. **(GR 235 921)**

4. Follow RD for 360 YDS to FPS on RHS. BR onto path passing through KGT on route to arrive at forestry TK. **(GR 237926)**

5. TL onto TK and follow it for about 2 miles. Ignore entrance to Twrch Trail on LHS, but soon after, at signs for Visitor Centre, TL onto a path through a SWG **(GR 233931)**. Follow the path downhill. At T JCN, TL and continue downhill to arrive at car park. **(GR 229 935)**

6. Walk downhill to end of car park. Leave car park by walking SO to second RD (Graig Bungalows). TL & follow the lower RD. The road becomes 'Nant Carn Road'. TR into 'Edward Street'. At the end of 'Edward Street' & near to the telephone kiosk, TR. After approx 20 YDS, TL into 'Park Street'. At end of the street arrive at main RD. TL & follow pavement for 60 YDS. X RD to CWMCARN VILLAGE HALL. **(GR 219 936)**

#### **CHECKPOINT TWO - (Total Distance 8 miles & 2330 feet ascent) Opens 1145 Hrs - Closes 1430 Hrs**

7. Leave hall & TL. After 60 YDS TL & walk along lane. Keep to the right of 'Cwmcarn Hand Car Wash'. Walk past & walk through metal barriers & follow path to go through subway. On leaving the subway, BR & follow RD as it bends to the left to become 'Chapel Farm Terrace' & SO. Leave the built up area, cross the river & follow the RD as it bends to the R. Cross railway line & TL. **(GR 214 937)**
8. Follow TK & ignore all LMGs & SO (240°) uphill, signposted with blue arrow. Arrive at forestry TK. TL & after 5 YDS, TR (signpost Mynydd Islwyn) to continue climbing. Follow the main path as it climbs, zigs & zags & eventually levels off to emerge from the forestry at ST & SMG next to a sculptured raven. **(GR 204 936)**
9. X ST & SO to ST. X ST & SO keeping fence on R. Where fence joins dry stone wall, X ST (Brecon Beacons approx 325°) & walk in same direction, now keeping wall on L to arrive at ST. X ST & follow wall behind shooting range buildings to arrive at ST. X ST & follow wall to ST. X ST & reach RD. **(GR 194 939)**
10. TL & follow RD. At the first farm, 'Cwmcaesingrug Farm', TR & walk down driveway. Keep all farm buildings on the R & look for SMG to the L of the farmhouse. (Raven Walk WMS) Pass through & descend to arrive at ST. X ST & descend steeply towards the disused reservoir below. (258°) (maintain this bearing to the valley floor- aim R of the obvious path ahead) X stream & arrive at ST. X ST & follow path as it crosses the dam wall to reach ST. X ST & TL. Follow path contouring around hill to arrive at ST. X ST & BR (285°) to walk uphill into FLD. Aim for top left corner of FLD to arrive at KGT. Pass through to reach RD. TL & follow RD for 340 YDS to TK on RHS. TR & follow TK downhill passing cottage (Twyn Gwyn) on RHS to reach RD. TL & follow for approx 40 YDS & then TR to walk steeply downhill. **(GR 182 927)**
11. The lane will eventually emerge at a RD. X to pavement opposite & TR & walk to RD JCN. TL & walk downhill to the main RD. TL & walk to pedestrian crossing. X RD & SO on tarmac lane to reach RD. X RD to pavement opposite & TL. After 230 YDS TR to **Ynysddu Community Hall. (GR 180924)**

**CHECKPOINT THREE - (Total Distance 11.7 miles & 3250 feet ascent)**

**Opens 1300 Hrs - Closes 1700 Hrs**

**ALL ENTRANTS ARE TO LEAVE THIS CHECKPOINT BY 5PM AT THE LATEST OR ARE LIABLE TO BE RETIRED.**

12. Leave CP & return to RD. TL & follow LH pavement to green railings & TL to X bridge. Pass Ynysddu Hotel & follow the lane as it bends to the L. BL onto steps & emerge onto a disused railway line. TL. After 400 YDS arrive at green metal barrier. SO for 1300 YDS to arrive at small wooden bench just before wooden fence. SO, X stream & after 20 YDS TR up steps. At top reach WMS & metal pole. TL & follow path through woods over 6 small wooden footbridges & duckboards to arrive at SWG. Pass through, ignore SWG on LHS & SO to arrive at RD. TR & immediately after small white building, TL up steps. At top of steps TL passing small stone building on RHS & gradually uphill to reach forestry TK. TL & after 530 YDS BR off TK next to FPS & notice board. Uphill ignoring SWG & ST to reach KGT. Pass through & TR. Uphill to TK. TL & ignore all paths to the L & R to arrive at rusty metal railings & pass through to arrive at RD. TR, X cattle grid to **(GR 202 904)**
13. BR onto broad TK, passing a sign for Mynydd Machen Common. Just before the green gate, BR onto the narrower path, pass large boulder to arrive at a SMG next to LMG. (Mendips on 150°) SO & ignore all paths to the L & R. The path will start to descend. Arrive at LMG. Pass through & SO. Path will emerge onto a RD. SO downhill & ignore all RDs to the L & R. Follow RD to the main RD at the bottom of the hill. X RD & TR. TL at first junction & retrace your steps to the finish. **(GR 209 891)**

**(Total Distance 15.5 miles & 3920 feet ascent)**

**Congratulations on completing 'Where Ravens Dare' 15.5 miles challenge walk.**