

Three Circles of Crickhowell / Tri Cylch o Crughywel - South Circle: 9 miles

This route description is designed to be used in conjunction with a map & compass

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

1. Leave Clarence Hall through main entrance, TL and follow pavement to zebra crossing. Cross RD and SO on enclosed tarmac path towards castle. Follow path to end and go through SWG. TR, TR again and SO downhill. As RD bears right TL down Bridge Street. At bottom of street SO over bridge. At far end of bridge TL on pavement. When opposite 'The Vine Tree' TR and using island X RD. TL along pavement and just before putty grey coloured cottage TR onto drive then immediately TR through SWG. (GR SO 215179)
2. SO with fence on right and in 40yds through SWG. SO and in 25yds TL up wide straight path between trees. At end of path exit trees via SWG and TL onto tarmac drive. SO and just after drive crosses stream TL through green steel KGT. X field on CB165. Through SMG and up path through trees. Exit trees through SMG and BL on stone track with fence on left towards bridge. Do not cross bridge but go through SMG to right of bridge onto canal bank. (GR SO 215169)
3. TR and follow canal until 10yds before bridge 114. BR at 'Slow past moorings' sign and up stone staircase set in wall. Over wall to road. TL and over bridge. Pass speed derestriction signs and SO until road swings left. TR through LMG with FPS. SO to LMG do not pass through but TL. SO with fence on right and scrubby hedge on left. Through LMG, fence/hedge now on left. SO to LMG, through and SO on (CB220°) along top of bank, pass to right of Cwmbach Farm. SO and path slowly curves left to cross stream into FLD. BR and X ST in FLD corner. (GR SO 199163)
4. Ahead up incline (CB210°) with fence on left, ignore path bearing right. At top of incline when fence turns away BR past WMS, SO 6yds and BL, continue ascent on (CB140°) on narrow path between bracken to reach level area below a steep bank. (GR SO 200159)
5. At WMS turn sharp right onto path. SO on level often stony path which slowly bears left. Pass National Nature Reserve sign on your left, continue on path below quarries to reach Y JCN with WMS. (GR SO 190157)
6. BR and begin descent. Path crosses grassed area then becomes more defined again. At WMS BR to drop into gully and continue descending into valley to WMS. SO on (CB320°) on boulder strewn path with old stone wall on right. Pass WMS and continue ahead following wall as it rises and falls to where wall turns away to right. (GR SO 186162)
7. SO for 30yds, then at faint Y JCN, BL (CB310°), Hawthorn tree on L. Follow initially faint path with hill on left and bog on right. Path widens then passes through rocks. After passing small ruin on your left path bears slightly left up hill to meet fence corner and Nature Reserve sign on your right. Follow fence to track. TL and follow track to RD. (GR SO 185169)

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8. Cross road, BL slightly and SO down track with bracken either side, generally (CB300°). Fence joins from right, continue descending with fence. Pass LMG on right then at SMG BL with fence still on right. SO (CB300°) across rough rising ground following fence to reach broken stone wall to left of large tree. Pass through wall. SO on faint path through rough ground staying about 10yds above fence on right to pass through second broken wall. (GR SO 181171)
9. SO on faint path over rough ground (CB300°) leaving fence to pass to left of iron fence compound (sheepfold on map). SO on rough ground (CB290°) staying about 15yds from fence on right. When fence/wall bear away right, keep SO (CB290°) across rough open ground, trees on RHS, to reach broken wall in front. Just before wall TR, (CB350°), keeping wall on LHS descend to stream. (GR SO 176173)
10. X stream, through LMG, keep wall on L, SO passing 'troops' sign on tree to right and through second LMG. SO between fences, pass SMG on right then through open gateway with LMG on right. Through fallen tree then up path with fence on left and stream on right. Follow stream until reaching fallen gate into field. Do not go through gate but TR (CB040°) and X stream. SO on enclosed track, fences on both sides. Pass through 2 LMG. SO, track initially sunken. Follow enclosed track for 0.7 miles then pass through 2 more LMG and SO down farm drive to RD. (GR SO 184180)
11. TR and follow RD for one mile (hopefully enjoying the views). RD descends to reach telegraph pole and transformer on right and 'The Old Sunday School' behind hedge on left. TL onto tarmac drive. (GR SO 197183)
12. SO onto tarmac drive with 'Old Sunday School' on left. Drive bends right and descends. When drive turns left continue ahead on grass path with hedges both sides. Path becomes stony as gradient steepens. With wall on left ignore path going off to right and continue descent on (CB045°). 60yds later at Y JCN, BR and continue descent. In 50yds path turns sharp left, in further 50yds at T JCN, TR and continue descending initially on (CB090°). Follow path down to bridge and X canal. (GR SO 203187)
13. TR along tow path. 15yds after going under bridge 118 TL X stile to road. TR and go downhill. At bottom of hill at RD T JCN, TR, pass phone box on left. 100yds after passing brown bench on left TL down lane with FPS and 'No Through Road' sign. Lane curves right then passes to left of a barn. Do not go through LMG but BR on enclosed path through KGT. Follow tarmac path through second KGT to RD. X RD and TR on pavement to bridge. (GRSO 213181)
14. TL and X bridge. At far end of bridge BR into 'Bridge Street' and follow uphill. At top of hill BL into 'High Street' and SO on LH pavement to main square. X RD at zebra crossing, TR continue SO (past Crickhowell Outdoor shop, Garage & CRIC Information Centre) to Clarence Hall main entrance. (GR SO 218184)

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