

Three Circles Of Machen
Saturday 2nd October 2021
10 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,
FPS – Fingerpost Sign, WMS – Waymarker Sign
NCN – National Cycle Network, RRC – Rhymney River Circular, CW – Cambrian Way

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. TR & remain on RH pavement & after 735 YDS & immed before bus stop reach KGT (FPS). Thru (initially 160°) & follow line of electricity poles to reach FB (WMS). X FB & SO, thru gap in hedge & SO & up bank to reach SWG. Thru & SO to reach LMG (probably open). Thru & SO to reach SWG next to LMG (WMS). Thru & X driveway to reach SWG (WMS). Thru & BR & follow RH FLD edge & after 70 YDS path enters woodland. Path will emerge from woodland into FLD. Follow RH FLD edge (river on the RHS) to reach LMG (FPS). Squeeze thru gap to reach RD. **(ST 223 877)**
2. X RD (**carefully**) to reach SWG. Thru & follow RH FLD edge (river on the RHS) to reach FB (WMS) in hedge. X FB & SO following RH FLD edge to reach FLD corner (gap ahead) (RRC WMS ((might be hidden by foliage))). TL (river now behind you) & follow RH FLD edge to reach path JCN. TR, thru large gap in hedge & SO to reach abandoned KGT (RRC WMS). SO (70°) to reach path JCN (WMS ((might be hidden by foliage)) & large green metal tank). TR & after 280 YDS when TK BR, leave TK & SO following LH FLD edge to reach FLD corner & gap in hedge on the LHS. TL thru gap & immed BR to reach KGT. Thru & SO passing between WMS & KGT to enter FLD. Follow RH FLD edge (river on the RHS) to reach SMG. Thru & SO & follow RH FLD edge to reach KGT. Thru & SO enter woodland to reach FB (WMS). X FB & after 5 YDS reach path JCN (RRC WMS). TR to reach FB. X FB & BL to enter FLD (WMS). Follow RH FLD edge to reach FLD corner (WMS). TL & after 20 YDS climb steps to RD (FPS). **(ST 243 855)**
3. TR carefully & after 20 YDS & immed before Spring Cottage, TL to reach ST next to LMG (RRC WMS). X ST & SO (150°) uphill to reach ST in top RH corner of FLD (RRC WMS). X ST & SO & pass just to the LHS of the pylon & uphill to reach 2 x old wooden gate posts & water trough in top LH corner of FLD (WMS). BL thru wooden gate posts & SO & X FLD to reach KGT (RRC WMS & FPS). Thru to reach RD. **(ST 245 848)**
4. TR carefully (**face oncoming traffic**) & after 450 YDS reach RD JCN. TL & after 10 YDS, TR carefully (Began Rd) (**face oncoming traffic**). After 355 YDS & when directly opposite Fairwater Farm reach ST on the RHS (RRC WMS & FPS). X ST & TL. Initially follow LH FLD edge and then BR to reach LMG. Thru & downhill (260°) to reach fence corner. BR slightly to reach SWG (WMS). Thru & BR & X driveway & then grass to reach concrete TK. TR & immed before LMG, BL to reach ST (RRC WMS). X ST & SO to reach FB immed before ST (RRC WMS). X ST & SO initially follow RH FLD edge & halfway along FLD, BL slightly to reach 'limbo dancing horizontal fence' immed before ST. Under pole & X ST & SO & follow RH FLD edge to reach ST (RRC WMS). X ST, SO & BL onto driveway. Follow driveway to reach a RD (FPS). **(ST 233 843)**
5. TR carefully (**face oncoming traffic**) & after 240 YDS reach a narrow RD bridge (**take care crossing bridge, beware of traffic**). SO & after 100 YDS BL (leaving RD) (RRC WMS & FPS) & enter Cefn Mably Country Park (note VR letterbox). Remain on main driveway & after 460 YDS X stream & immed after stream reach SWG next to 2 x LMGs. Thru & SO (320°) to reach gap in hedge line. Thru & enter FLD. Follow RH FLD edge to reach KGT & SWG set back in hedge line. Thru & TL to reach stream. X stream (**carefully**) on stepping stones & SO passing (RRC WMS) to enter an area of scrubland. Pass a 2nd (RRC WMS) & SO (320°) passing an abandoned KGT to enter main part of FLD & X FLD to reach KGT. Thru & follow RH FLD edge to X FB immed before KGT. Thru & SO to reach KGT next to LMG (RRC WMS). Thru & X FB to reach RD. **(ST 220 852)**
6. TL carefully & after 15 YDS TR passing green & white metal barrier. SO & pass 2nd barrier & enter Coed Wern-ddu. Remain on main path to reach SWG (RRC WMS). Thru & SO (340°) to reach SMG in top LH corner of FLD (RRC WMS). Thru to reach TK (Ruperra Castle ahead). TL & after 15 YDS at wall corner, TR into enclosed path & follow to reach SMG (RRC WMS & FPS). Thru & TR & after 160 YDS reach flight of steps on the LHS. TL & up steps to reach X TKS (RRC WMS). SO & after 230 YDS reach Y JCN (RRC WMS). BL 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)**

7. BL to T JCN & TR (Direction Lower Machen, do not TR immed). In 70 YDS TL on RD (face oncoming traffic) & after 1300 YDS & immed after farm complex of Rhyd-y-Gwern Farm BR to reach SWG (RRC WMS). Thru & downhill to reach SWG next to LMG (WMS). Thru & SO across paddock to reach LMG. Thru & SO & initially follow RH FLD edge & after 30 YDS BR onto enclosed path downhill to reach SWG (WMS). Thru & SO to reach FB immed before rudimentary ST next to LMG (RRC WMS). X ST & BL & follow LH FLD edge to reach KGT (WMS). Thru & enter playing FLDS. Follow LH FLD edge (small stream on the LHS) leaving playing FLDS area to walk on adjacent path. Path will become enclosed with houses on the RHS to reach KGT (FPS). Thru & TR & follow TK. TK will TL (river now on the RHS) to reach RD (CW WMS & FPS). X RD **(carefully)** & climb steps onto FB with green railings. TR & at end of FB, X RD **carefully** to pavement opposite & TL. BR into car park & return to Machen Village Hall.

(Total Distance 9.4 miles)

OS Maps: Landranger 171; Explorer: 152