

Rhondda Rollercoaster
Saturday 13th May 2023
26.5 mile route description

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, MCB – 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 & TL. Along residential RD to T JCN. TR & walk to end of RD. TL, river now on RHS. Walk to end of RD & climb steps to FB. X river & TL to join main TK. After 10 YDS, ignore path on L & SO. After 60 YDS & with pond on LHS, TR onto path with railings on RHS. Shortly after Xing stream, BR at Y JCN & 5 YDS later BR again uphill to reach main TK T JCN. TR & remain on main TK that gradually climbs. TK will go around a hairpin bend. At 1st main TK JCN, TR. Continue climbing passing thru metal squeeze barrier & then fence on the RHS to reach T JCN. TL & climb ignoring all minor paths to wide T JCN. TR & follow to hairpin bend. Leave main TK & SO. Remain on new TK, ignoring smaller paths to wooden electricity pylon on LHS. TL & path will climb into the trees & get steeper to reach X TKS (WMS). TR & after 0.4 ml & just before forestry TK widens BR leaving main TK to reach metal squeeze ST & wooden post on the LHS. (GR ST 039 900)
2. SO & after 40 YDS BR downhill (290°) following fence on LHS to arrive at flat area. SO downhill still following fence. As fence turns to L, TL on to path. Pass underneath electricity wires & after 100 YDS reach path JCN. Ignore path on the RHS & after 330 YDS reach LMG & fence corner on the LHS. BR downhill passing stone cairn to reach path T JCN. SO & after 40 YDS reach path JCN. BR (effectively SO) & after 160 YDS reach path JCN (stone cairn ahead). TR downhill & ignore all paths to the L&R. X stream & follow path passing underneath electricity wires. After a further 100 YDS & as main path BL uphill, BR (264°) & descend steeply to T JCN. TL & ignore all paths to L&R to reach wide area with large corrugated metal gate directly ahead. SO passing to L of gate & follow lane to RD. (GR ST 016 903)
3. TL & when opposite 'Ton Hywel', X RD **CAREFULLY** & walk into 'Ton Hywel'. Follow LH pavement. At 1st RD JCN on LHS, TL. Look for children's playground on RHS, & after house number '8', TL to reach ST. X ST & climb to reach T JCN with wooden electricity pylon. TL & uphill & as path levels out it bends to the L & then climbs steeply to reach Y JCN. BR (effectively SO) to reach ST next to LMG. X ST & BR to reach KGT. Thru & SO. Path will bend to the L & downhill passing WMS to reach stone gully. Follow gully uphill & as gully ends, BL to ST & LMG. X ST & SO to reach TK. TR & as TK bends sharply to R, leave TK & SO (310°). Follow path across pasture to join fence on RHS. Follow fence to reach KGT. (GR ST 004 913)
4. Thru KGT & TL. After 20 YDS leave fence line & follow path as it bends to the R & descends. Path descends & bends to L & levels out. Ignore all paths on RHS & SO to broken fence corner. Keep remains of fence on RHS & follow to reach tarmac lane. Downhill to RD. TL & follow to reach electricity sub station on LHS. TR into 'Caroline St'. **(Street Sign missing)** Descend to T JCN. X RD to pavement opposite & TR. Walk onto FB & X to reach RD. TL & follow to T JCN with garage on LHS. TL & follow pavement to reach church on LHS. X main RD via pedestrian Xing to RD opposite church & walk uphill. At 1st JCN on LHS, TL into 'Church Rd'. As RD bends to R, TL into lane with old metal garages. (GR ST 001 904)
5. Immediately after 3rd garage on RHS, TR & follow TK to reach ST & LMG. X ST & SO, steeply uphill, following fence on LHS to reach ST. X ST & follow enclosed path to gap in fence. Thru gap & SO (220°) uphill. Keep valley on LHS to arrive at TK. DO NOT CROSS STREAM. TR & after 20 YDS reach T JCN. TL uphill (Stream still on LHS) to reach broken ST & broken LMG on ground. Thru gap & SO (250°) across FLD to reach ST in dry stone wall. X ST & uphill (260°) across FLD to KGT & ST. (GR SS 994 901) Thru & enter forestry & SO to T JCN. TR & after 20 YDS, TL. Follow path to leave forestry via SMG. SO following LHS fence line to reach gap in fence in far LH corner. TL thru gap & follow RHS fence line to reach SMG. Thru & downhill on grassy path to reach tarmac drive. TL & down to reach RD T JCN. (Ignore Fair View RD on LHS) X RD to pavement opposite & TR. Follow pavement for 0.3 ml & X RD to reach car park (GR SS 980 904).

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE ARE NO TOILET FACILITIES AVAILABLE FOR WALKERS AT THIS CHECKPOINT.

CHECKPOINT ONE - (7.6 miles & 1935 feet ascent)

Opens 0930 Hrs - Closes 1145 Hrs

6. Leave CP at rear of car park with river on the RHS. After 50 YDS TR & X FB. After 15 YDS at path fork BL uphill. Path will enter woodland. Follow path to reach fence corner (gully in front). TL downhill to reach ST. X ST & FB & TR uphill to reach TK T JCN. TL uphill. Follow zig-zag path uphill remaining on main TK to reach broken ST, 2 x metal gate posts & fence. SO (initially 330°) & after 200 YDS path will BR (0°) & across open hillside to reach ST. X ST to reach forestry TK. TL passing thru deforested area & after 0.8 ml reach forestry TK JCN. SO (entering forest) & after 0.3 ml reach wide area with path JCN. BL remaining on main TK & after 0.4 ml reach forestry TK JCN. TL (leaving main forestry TK) & follow TK as it BR & uphill to reach X TKS. SO uphill to reach 2nd X TKS. TL & leave forestry to reach TK T JCN (ST ahead). TR uphill to reach cairn & trig point of Garn Fawr. (GR SS 952 927)
7. SO (320°) keeping fence on the LHS to reach ST next to LMG. X ST, TR & remain on main TK, ignoring all paths L & R to reach major TK JCN with stone WMS on LHS. SO on major TK & follow as it descends to reach stone WMS just before green barrier. (GR SS (940 945)
8. TR onto path & follow to Y JCN. BL (effectively SO). Path initially descends steeply & then more gradually to reach SMG. Thru & SO on obvious path to SMG. Thru & SO on grassy path. Path will join fence on RHS. Follow fence line as it bends to R. Ignore LMG in fence line & keep fence on RHS to reach SMG. Thru & keep fence on RHS to reach SMG. Thru & down enclosed path to reach SWG. Thru & downhill to reach tarmac lane. (GR SS 967 954) TR downhill to RD. SO on RH pavement to T JCN. X RD (pedestrian Xing) to pavement opposite & TR. Follow pavement to T JCN. TL & follow pavement past shop and theater. BL to **ST. John's Church, Ton Pentre**. (GR SS 971 954)

CHECKPOINT TWO - (15.6 miles & 3245 feet ascent)

Opens 1115 Hrs - Closes 1440 Hrs

9. Return to mini roundabout. X RD to pavement opposite & TL. Follow pavement to T JCN with pedestrian Xing. X RD & up steps opposite. At top TR to RD. TR & follow to path (FPS). 45 YDS after sign, & when opposite 5th large tree on RHS, TL to reach SMG. Thru, TR & follow faint path as it climbs thru heather & gorse. Path levels with small quarry on the LHS. SO & path will soon join fence on RHS. Follow fence line to reach SWG. Thru & SO with fence on RHS ignoring all paths to the L to reach LMG. Thru & along enclosed path to reach RD. (GR SS 980 953)
10. X RD & SO passing green barrier to reach stream. X stream & follow gravel TK to KGT next to playground. Thru & after 5 YDS TL (FPS) thru metal fence onto path. Follow path to SMG. Thru & BR (50°) uphill thru gorse bushes. Keep steep drop on RHS & join fence on RHS. **(Please shut gates - don't leave open for others)** Follow fence to reach SMG & LMG. Thru to TK. TL & after 15 YDS reach LMG. (GR SS 984 955) Thru & SO to reach Y JCN. BR keeping fence on RHS to reach LMG. Thru & SO. Pass 2 x LMGs in RH fence line to reach LMG. Thru and SO into FLD & follow RHS fence line uphill. Eventually see LMG ahead. BL away from fence to reach LMG (WMS). Thru & X stream into FLD. SO (340°) uphill to reach LMG in dry stone wall. Thru & SO (320°) to reach LMG. Thru & SO along path to reach X TK. (GR SS 986 968)
11. SO (20°), Xing TK & across rough ground to reach SMG. Thru & SO following faint path to reach X TKS. SO & follow path as it bends to the R to reach a gap in fence. Thru & immed reach path Y JCN. BL downhill & path will eventually join a fence on the LHS. Follow fence to SMG. Thru & SO along faint path to reach path JCN. BL downhill to reach KGT. Thru & follow path downhill thru wood to Y JCN. BL downhill to T JCN above lake. TL & follow tarmac path. As path bends to the R, SO across grass & in 5 YDS reach tarmac path. TL & follow path to park exit. Leave park & down RD to T JCN. TL to T JCN. TR to T JCN. X RD to pavement opposite & TR downhill. Arrive at T JCN with pedestrian Xing. X RD to pavement opposite & TL. X RD immediately after waste ground & green railings & continue walking downhill on RH pavement. Pavement will end. X RD to LH pavement, & follow downhill to reach junction signed Greenwood Park / Parc Greenwood. X RD & TR downhill to reach Ferndale RFC. (GR ST 001 970)
12. BL & pass to RHS of mining memorial to reach riverside path. Follow path for 0.5ml to reach riverside bridge. **DO NOT CROSS**. SO & remain on RHS of river & after 0.7ml reach 3 x green metal benches together on the RHS. SO, ignoring the path on the RHS & after 130 YDS & just before bridge high above, BR leaving riverside path & up steps to reach RD. BL & follow metal railings & descend steps to reach FB. X FB & follow path to reach RD. Uphill to reach RD T JCN. X RD to pavement opposite & TL uphill to reach RD T JCN. X RD to pavement opposite & TR. Follow RD to reach X RDs. TL uphill & follow railings. When railings end TR & X RD to JCN opposite. Steeply uphill (passing Number 1) (Heol Cefn Llechau) towards electricity sub-station & BL & follow RD steeply uphill. Tarmac will end & become stony TK. Pass farmhouse (on the LHS) & eroded path sign. Path will become enclosed to reach a 2nd eroded path sign. Uphill & after 120 YDS reach X TKS. SO uphill & as TK levels out reach cattle grid. SO & after 360 YDS reach ST on the LHS. SO & after 15 YDS TL to reach metal

squeeze barrier. Thru & follow forestry TK & after 460 YDS reach path JCN on the RHS. TR & follow path to reach RD. TL & follow RD to RD T JCN. TR to reach Checkpoint 3 The Brynfynnon Hotel (GR ST 031 956).

CHECKPOINT THREE - (22 miles & 5002 feet ascent)

Opens 1230 Hrs - Closes 1700 Hrs

- 13.** Leave CP & return to RD JCN. TL & continue on RD for 0.6 miles to reach BR forestry TK at stone post with yellow <> mark (GR ST 031 946). BR leaving RD & thru trees & after 400 YDS reach cattle grid & SMG. (If path flooded, walk in the trees on the RHS to reach the SMG) Thru & TL & follow LHS FLD edge & on approaching FLD corner, BR to reach LMG next to white post. (GR ST 032 938)
- 14.** Thru & follow broken dry stone wall on LHS. Shortly, the path bends to the R. Then follow 2nd dry stone wall on LHS. Dry stone wall is broken in places & eventually disappears to become fence. Arrive at gap between two dry stone walls. SO (170°) & keep wall on LHS. Follow wall to reach ST next to LMG. X ST & SO keeping wall on LHS to reach LMG. Thru & SO with wall on LHS. At end of wall reach TK JCN. TR downhill, now keeping wire fence on RHS. Follow fence to reach LMG as TK bends sharply to the L. Thru LMG & SO down TK. After 290 YDS reach 3 x LMGs on LHS. (GR ST 033 923)
- 15.** TL & thru middle LMG & descend. The TK will become a concrete TK & in due course will become a tarmac lane. As the tarmac lane bends to the L, ignore the footpath on the RHS. Follow lane to reach farm buildings. Follow downhill thru farm. Shortly after leaving farm buildings, ignore metal barrier on RHS & in 20 YDS TR on to path. Path descends over two FB's to reach RD (FPS). TL to reach staggered X RD's. TL & remain on LH pavement to reach T JCN. X RD to pavement opposite & TR. After 20 YDS TL. (Gethin Terrace) Follow RD to reach T JCN (FPS). (GR ST 039 914)
- 16.** SO on path ignoring any paths to the L. The path will descend to X FB & descend with metal railings on RHS. At the end of the railings TR to RD (FPS). TL underneath bridges to T JCN. X RD to pavement opposite & TL. Follow pavement for 300 YDS to reach Morrisons Daily store, SO for 30 YDS & TR to **Trehafod Community Village Hall & finish.** (GR ST 046 909)

(Total Distance 26.5 miles & 5575 feet ascent)