

Taith Torfaen North Loop

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Key:

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

 - Cold Drinks Only  - Hot & Cold Drinks  - Cold Food Only  - Hot & Cold Food

All distances are taken from a Garmin GPS62s that has been used to record the route on its highest setting. Other GPS devices may vary. The ascents & descents are taken from Memory Map. This route description should be used in conjunction with an Ordnance Survey map.

1. West Monmouth School to Mountain Road nr Blaenavon 6.17 miles, ascent: 1248 feet

1.1 Leave school & TL downhill. At end of wall SO to X RD carefully to pavement opposite & SO. X RD to pavement opposite & TR. After 15 YDS BR onto cycle TK. X RD & SO (railings on RHS). SO to reach roundabout (Ignore ramp to FB). TL to reach X RDS. X RD via pedestrian Xing & SO downhill under bridge to reach X RDS. SO downhill via pedestrian Xing. Pass Esso Garage & ornate gates & as pavement bends to RHS, BL before 1st house thru KGT (FPS). Uphill on enclosed path to KGT. Thru & SO into FLD. TL uphill passing disused ST to reach LMG & KGT. SO & ignore all side TKS, passing thru several LMGS to reach Folly Tower. (GR SO 295 025)

1.2 SO (310°) to reach KGT. Thru & SO. X RD & SO (330°) up path with wall on RHS. Descend to TK T JCN. SO Downhill, X stream & SO to reach LMG with built in ST. X ST & SO between walls. When walls diverge, BR (initially 10°) uphill. After 120 YDS & with LMG in dry stone wall on RHS uphill. (Now 40°) After 320 YDS path bends to L. (dry stone wall now on RHS) After 390 YDS arrive at X TK at wall corner. (GR SO 288 041) SO (0°) to reach trig point at summit of Garn Wen. (GR SO 289 043)

1.3 SO (20°) to reach wall. At wall corner TR (20°) & after approx 800 YDS, wall starts to drop to RHS with quarry scrapings on LHS. SO (330°) thru shallow scraping to reach cairn. SO (330°) & after 240 YDS reach wall / fence corner. SO (wall now on RHS) & follow wall to arrive at copse. X stream & SO (initially 260°) & follow main TK ignoring all side paths. **Note cream farmhouse on RHS.** Approx 250 YDS after passing house, arrive at path Y JCN. BR (310°) & after 100 YDS arrive at Y JCN. SO (310°) following LH path & after 250 YDS arrive at Y JCN. BR (310°) & follow to X TKS. SO (310°) & after 450 YDS arrive Y JCN. BR (345°) downhill to reach RD (FPS) (GR SO 276 075) TL uphill & after 200 YDS arrive at bench & boulders on RHS. (GR SO 275 077)

CHECKPOINT 1 – MOUNTAIN ROAD nr BLAENAVON 
TOTAL MILEAGE – 6.17 MILES
Opens 1105 Hrs – Closes 1250 Hrs

2. Mountain Road nr Blaenavon to Govilon Village Hall 5.43 miles, ascent: 510 feet

2.1 From CP leave RD on moorland path. After 15 YDS TL (340°) Follow clear path that becomes very broad for 2.2 miles as it gently ascends Mynydd – y – garn – fawr. Path has periodic WMS along its length. Arrive at RD next to two large masts. (GR SO 264 107) TL & after 15 YDS TR into car park. At far end of car park & next to notice board SO on gravel path. After 100 YDS TR & follow path to trig point & Blorenge summit. (GR SO 269 119)

2.2 Continue past the trig point following a rocky path in the same direction a few yards to the right of the trig point. 5 YDS after the end of the rocks turn sharp left along a faint, but well-defined, path (300°) that continues downhill to reach T JCN. TL & after 270 YDS TR downhill. (Stone WMS 'Govilon & Llanfoist' on RHS) Descend for 0.6 miles (passing 1 FPS 'Forging History') to reach T JCN with FPS nr woods. (GR SO 269 127) TL (245°) & after 220 YDS TR from main TK & head for corner of woodland. At woodland corner, downhill keeping fence on RHS as path 'zigs' & 'zags' to reach ST in bottom RH corner. X ST & SO to reach ST. X ST & SO downhill to reach ST. X ST to reach RD. **BUSY FAST RD.** X RD to path opposite that becomes enclosed to reach driveway. TL downhill to RD. TR, pass 30mph RD signs & BL over bridge. TR downhill, X canal & immediately after chapel with green gates on RHS, TL next to substantial wooden fence to reach RD T JCN. **X RD CAREFULLY** to pavement opposite & TL to reach Govilon Village Hall. (GR SO 266 139)

CHECKPOINT 2 – GOVILON VILLAGE HALL 
TOTAL MILEAGE – 11.6 MILES
Opens 1205 Hrs – Closes 1520 Hrs

3. Govilon Village Hall to Whistle Inn 5.2 miles, ascent: 1571 feet

3.1 From CP **X RD CAREFULLY** to pavement opposite & TL. Ignore Church RD & TR at 2nd RD on RHS. Uphill to RD T JCN & TR. X canal & uphill to bridge with green grit bin on RHS. SO (The Tyla) & after 120 YDS at small car parking area on LHS, TL thru barrier to disused railway line & TR. Pass underneath 3 bridges. 100 YDS after 3rd bridge, TL to zig-zag up small bank to SWG. Pass thru & T ½ R up enclosed path (240°) to reach RD. (GR SO 152 136) TR & after 10 YDS TL up lane passing house. SO up enclosed path (open barn on LHS) that becomes stony to reach RD. TR & follow to RD JCN (yellow grit bin opposite). (GR SO 243 136)

3.2 TL uphill, X cattle grid & after 150 YDS BR (260°) onto grassy TK. Ignore FP & LMGs on RHS & pass underneath electricity pylons to reach SMG. Pass thru to reach old quarry. SO ignoring paths on L & R to reach T JCN. T sharp R, follow LH path passing ruined quarry buildings to reach LMG. Pass thru to RD. TL & X viaduct. Follow RD to T JCN with yellow grit bin on LHS. TL uphill **VERY** steeply. Near the top the RD bends to the R & levels off. Ignore all side turns & as RD bends to R, TL. (Telephone Box on LHS) (GR SO 224 121)

If you get to the disused Jolly Colliers Pub, you have gone 40 YDS too far.

3.3 Immediately after yellow grit bin, BR off RD up TK to reach metal ST. X ST & SO. As concrete TK bends to L & downhill, SO & uphill to arrive at wide area. Ignore TK on LHS, but BR (210°) & after 25 YDS BL (165°) on TK that meanders to R & L, & climbs steeply to reach X TK. (Concrete Hut on LHS) SO to reach broken concrete TK. TL (100°) & after 150 YDS TR (150°) on TK. X ditch & after short rise, TK becomes broad. Follow TK (190°) as it bends to the L & R to meet a concrete TK from the R. SO as TK becomes tarmac & downhill to reach RD. (GR SO 230 104) **BUSY FAST RD.** X RD & SO & TL to Whistle RD Car Park on LHS. (GR SO 230 103)

CHECKPOINT 3 – WHISTLE RD CAR PARK 
TOTAL MILEAGE – 16.8 MILES
Opens 1305 Hrs – Closes 1745 Hrs

4. Whistle Road Car Park to British Mountain Road

4.9 miles, ascent: 787 feet

4.1 Leave CP & TL. X disused railway bridge & SO (Whistle Inn on LHS) to arrive at LMG & ST. X ST & SO. As TK bends to L, SO & X ST next to LMG. SO on grassy path that becomes stony & climbs to LMG & ST. X ST & SO uphill to arrive at RD. X RD & SO uphill, & near the top of climb, pass line of metal posts. Path levels out & descends. Shortly after a fence on LHS arrive at TK T JCN (2 x wind turbines ahead). (GR SO 224 085)

4.2 TL (140°) & follow TK as it climbs & descends gently over 1.2 miles to arrive at X TK. (GR SO 231 067) SO (190°) & follow TK for 2 miles to gently descend to area with deep valley on RHS (Abertillery) & small area of fencing on LHS. (GR SO 235 038) SO uphill & after 80 YDS arrive at Y JCN. BL uphill on stony TK. After 390 YDS arrive at T JCN with gas pipeline crossing marker. (GR SO 237 035) TL (fencing on LHS to arrive at X TK near trig point. TR (140°) to reach mountain RD & TR to arrive at CP. (GR SO 241 033)

CHECKPOINT 4 – BRITISH MOUNTAIN ROAD



TOTAL MILEAGE – 21.7 MILES

Opens 1400 Hrs – Closes 2000 Hrs

5. British Mountain Road to West Monmouth School, Pontypool

4.2 miles, ascent: 225 feet

5.1 Leave CP & SO along RD. After 100 YDS TL (135°) down grassy TK to reach TK T JCN with dry stone wall in front. TL keeping dry stone wall & fence on RHS. Path descends to LMG. Pass thru & descend ignoring all paths L & R. Pass a ruined building & descend to reach LMG. (FPS) Pass thru & SO with fence & LMG on RHS to arrive at LWG & ST. X ST & downhill keeping fence on the LHS to reach LMG & KGT. Pass thru & downhill. Path becomes enclosed to arrive at RD. (GR SO 264 024)

5.2 TR (ignore RD JCN on RHS & downhill. No pavement, then it becomes intermittent. X old railway bridge & downhill to reach main RD T JCN. TL & X RD via pedestrian Xing. TR & X bridge. T sharp L down steps to arrive at RD. (Pegasus Pub opposite) TR downhill to X RDS. SO on LHS pavement. (blue bollards on the RHS) Arrive at RD T JCN & X RD ½ L & TR into Church Lane. After 10 YDS BR, pass metal barrier & remain on tarmac path to pass thru second metal barrier. SO & follow path to reach RD. X RD to pavement opposite & TL. 30 YDS after last building on the RHS, X RD to pass thru gap to LHS of the crash barrier. X RD to pavement & TR. Immediately after Salvation Army BL up cobbled area passing Pontypool Museum to enter Pontypool Park. (GR SO 284 011)

5.3 At path JCN, BR. (signposted Town Centre & Italian Gardens) TR in front of Leisure Centre, X river & arrive in car park. SO to reach T JCN. TL uphill to reach T JCN. TR & remain on RH pavement to reach pedestrian Xing. X RD & TL. Uphill with wall on RHS & X dual carriageway via FB. Up RD (ignore 1st JCN on RHS) to arrive at T JCN. TR & follow pavement to reach cycle TK. TR & after 10 YDS BL to RD. X RD & SO to RD. X RD to pavement & TL uphill to return to upper entrance of West Monmouth School. (GR SO 284 002)

CHECKPOINT 5 – WEST MONMOUTH SCHOOL



TOTAL MILEAGE – 25.9 MILES

Opens 1450 Hrs – Closes 2155 Hrs