

Taith Torfaen South 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 Satmap Active 10 that has been used to record the route. 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.

Stage 6. West Monmouth School to St Mary's Church Hall, Risca 8.4 miles, ascent: 1383 feet

6.1 Leave school & X RD to pavement opposite & TR. After 100 YDS TL into Farm Rd. At end of RD TL to reach X RD's & TR. At end of RD, SO down TK with fence on LHS. At end of fence TL down steps & SO along enclosed TK to reach RD. TL & 20 YDS after green bus shelter, X RD to go up lane opposite. After 50 YDS lane turns sharp R. SO (210°) up lane. Ignore all turnings to LHS. The lane will become stony & arrive at lane T JCN. X ST ahead into field. BR (220) to X ST by gate in top R corner. X-further ST to reach RD where carry SO to reach T JCN. TL & follow RD which bends to the R & then L. Shortly after L bend, BR off RD onto wide stony TK (220°) past a big boulder after 10 YDS. (**GR ST 278 983**)

6.2 Follow this TK, ignoring any side TK's to reach a car park. SO through 2 wooden gate posts & turn R to follow a stony TK past a stone plinth saying Edlogan Manor (250°). Ignore any side TKs for 180 YDS to reach a fork; take the L fork staying on the level to go through a KGT by some trees. Go SO, on a wide TK with a fence on the LHS, ignoring all paths to L&R for 920 YDS to arrive at Y JCN. BR (260°), & remain on main TK ignoring any turns L & R & after 420 YDS go through a KGT by a LMG ahead to emerge on TK from the wooded area. TK takes a sharp turn to the L with a fence on the LHS, SO main TK for 400 YDS. (**GR ST 264 973**).

6.3 Reach a X TK, FPS on the LHS, follow sign 'To Pilgrims Route/Greenmeadow' that goes SO uphill (140°). Now on a narrower stony TK climbing steadily uphill. When the TK levels out turn sharp R up a wide rocky TK climbing steeply initially. After 250 YDS take a L Fork, stony & steeply uphill (250°). Follow the TK, as it BL between the post & tree, as it becomes a wide grassy TK uphill (210°) to pass underneath a line of pylons to the RHS of pylon no. L33. 15 YDS after pylon arrive at X TKS & SO slightly uphill (210°). Follow this TK always on approximately the same bearing (210°), TK becomes indistinct as it levels out. Eventually meet & BL (170°) onto a stony TK along the top of the ridge about 50 YDS before some forestry.

6.4 After end of forestry, follow path for 1.8 miles generally on (220°). Path will gently descend & then gently climb to reach a KGT in fence & SO towards Twmbarlwm mound. At base of mound follow TK as it BL then winds upwards round to R, up steps to top of mound (**GR ST 242 926**).

6.5 Take direction (256°) to trig point, then SO across earthworks & steeply downhill (320°) heading towards a KGT before RD. Just before the KGT (**GR ST 238 929**) TL (sign posted Darren RD) down a grassy TK (Ignore path on RHS after 15 YDS). Arrive at TK. TR for a few yards, then L down continuation of previous TK (186°). SO downhill to join TK from R, TK soon becomes metalled lane, descending steeply to arrive at black & white barriers. SO through barriers & over canal bridge (**GR ST 234 915**)

6.6 Just after the bridge go SO down a narrow tarmac TK sign posted Risca Town Centre to join a Main RD, X the Main RD & carry on downhill towards Level Crossing. (**Don't cross the railway line**). As the RD BR carry SO along a gravel TK. Reach an open area with garage ahead, SO to RHS of garage towards a wall. Just before wall sharply TR onto a tarmac TK to go underneath the railway & reach a RD. Carefully X the RD & TL. Ignore first RD to the R to reach metal railings on the RHS. Just before a pedestrian crossing, TR through a SMG into the checkpoint. (**GR ST 236 911**)

CHECKPOINT 6 – ST MARY'S CHURCH HALL, RISCA 
TOTAL MILEAGE – 34.3 MILES
Opens 1625 Hrs – Closes 0145 Hrs

Stage 7. St Mary's Church Hall, Risca to Ynysddu Community Hall
6.6 miles, ascent: 1335 feet

7.1 Return to the RD & TR. After 40 YDS TR into RD. At the end of the RD turn R onto Grove RD. In 20 YDS, TL across the RD, green & RD to X a FB over the river. At the end of the FB, TR onto a TK (at times winding) along the L bank of the river. Ignore any TK's to the L. After 0.6 miles TK becomes tarmac & descends to go through a KGT, TL along a RD. Go under a RD Bridge & TR along RD (**GR ST 225 912**). Continue on the lane as it zigzags uphill, under trees; ignore all TK's to R & L (keep going uphill). 15 YDS after cattle grid turn sharp L on tarmac TK. After 300 YDS (just after brow of hill) Fork R on TK (150°). (**GR 225904**).

7.2 Follow TK through bracken, (150°) uphill, then slightly down & uphill again to pass a few gorse bushes. At WMS where a TK joins from the L, carry SO uphill. Just after another WMS, X a stony TK, after another 20 YDS TR steeply uphill on a broad well-worn TK to reach the mast & trig point at top of Mynydd Machen to reach:

Self Clip A (GR ST 224 900).

7.3 Leave trig point on (322°) onto TK to L of mast enclosure. Continue to R of trees. Where the stony TK BR downhill, BL along grassy rutted TK. Follow grassy path which becomes stony at the end & eventually descends steeply after 1 mile in total to arrive at X TK with wooden notice board & green barrier on LHS. TR downhill to arrive at tarmac lane, then Turn L over cattle grid (**GR ST 202 904**). After 10 YDS fork L uphill.

7.4 After 800 YDS, just after open area on RHS at WMS (marked, the Sirhowy Valley Walk (SVW) **GR ST 195 905**), turn sharp R downhill. TL through a KGT, along a wire fence. Ignore L fork & continue along wire fence to join a stony TK from the R. TL along TK.

7.5 Ahead for 450 YDS to SVW WMS, fork R down TK to reach Ynys Hwyl camping barn. TR, down steps, TR & go down tarmac drive passing small car park on the RHS. Just after another car park on the LHS, TL down a TK. SO along TK, ignoring steps down to R, over 7 FB's through forestry. Just before a deep gully TR at metal pole & go down steps to TK (disused railway). TL & SO along TK. At house on R, carry on along TK through metal barrier. Just before stone walls, BL off TK to go R underneath bridge to reach tarmac lane.

Go SO downhill past Ynysddu Hotel, over river & TR into High Street. After 230 YDS TR to checkpoint. (GR ST 180 924)

CHECKPOINT 7 – SARDIS HALL 
TOTAL MILEAGE – 40.9 MILES
Opens 1740 Hrs – Closes 0445 Hrs

Stage 8. Sardis Hall to Abercarn Scout Hut
4 miles, ascent: 1028 feet

8.1 Leave the checkpoint, TR to reach RD. X the RD & turn L to return along High Street. At the end of the houses, TR up lane to reach pedestrian crossing to X main RD (GR ST 180 926).

8.2 TL, after 40 YDS TR up RD to T JCN. SO to pavement & TR (Commercial St). In 40 YDS TL over metal grid, up tarmac track. Tarmac condition improves. Uphill to arrive at RD T JCN (Ty Capel on RHS). TL & in 50 yds TR up stony track to reach RD at Twyn-Gwyn Farm. TL up RD for 350 yds to go through KGT on R (GR 185931).

8.3 X field on (070°) to ST in bottom L H& Corner. X ST & ahead on (010°). Fork R to reach disused reservoir. TR over ST & X dam. Turn L & follow railings to ST. Ahead (078°) up grassy TK then uphill to R of stream bed. At top keep about 20 YDS to R of stream bed to X ST to R of farmhouse. Carry on through gate, turning L then R onto TK to reach RD (GR ST 194 937).

8.4 TL on RD towards a church, follow the RD to the R around the churchyard to reach some steps leading up to a ST on the R (opposite the churchyard). X ST &, keeping the wall on the RHS, SO to arrive & X a ST in the far R corner of the field. SO keeping a wall on the RHS, follow the wall X 2 ST until the wall ends where there is a gate & ST on the R. Over the ST, TL & SO with a wire fence on the L. Continue SO passing Conifer Plantation on LHS, about 50 YDS after plantation on the LHS go over a ST at the end of the wire fence. Carry on in the same direction along a well-defined TK towards a gate & ST. Over the ST into a wood. Follow the TK into the wood, ignore a R fork, continue downhill to reach a Ravens walk WMS where there is a small Zig Zag, L then R. Follow the TK downhill with a fence on the LHS. When the fence ends, SO downhill to reach a X-TK. TL & after 5 YDS TR to go SO the TK opposite (to Cwmcarn). Follow this downhill to the bottom. At the bottom ignore a gate & white barrier on the LHS & follow the TK down to the L to reach (but not cross) a bridge over a railway. Carry SO with the railway on the RHS. Past some houses on the L, follow the RD to the L, about 10 YDS before a bridge over the RD TR onto a TK, past some concrete posts, between wire fences to reach a metal FB over the railway. TR over the FB & TL along TK between railway & river to reach KGT. SO to X bridge over river to reach a junction, TL & remain on LH pavement as far as Travis Perkins, & X RD to CP (GR ST 215 947).

CHECKPOINT 8 – ABERCARN SCOUT HUT 
TOTAL MILEAGE – 44.9 MILES
Opens 1830 Hrs – Closes 0640 Hrs

Stage 9. Abercarn Scout Hut to West Monmouth School
7.4 miles, ascent: 1464 feet

9.1 Leave the checkpoint & TR through a small car park to reach & go through an underpass. Follow TK up to RD then TL then L again by shop & Bus Stop. X RD via pedestrian crossing & TR & TL onto lower RD (Chemist on corner) past sheds. SO to the L of lake, ahead into grassed area & L up steps next to wooden benches. At top of steps TL, for 40 YDS, then TR to pass small post box on your LHS. SO in same direction along RD to end of houses then past green garages on RHS. 50 YDS after 5th wooden telegraph pole TL

uphill to R of line of distorted beech trees & into FLD. Uphill steeply to reach TK T JCN. TR along TK to X-ST (GR ST 223953).

9.2 Along TK between fences, over ST & TL along fence uphill to reach gateway on L where BR onto track along top edge of field. SO along track to go over X-TK to X ST, along TK between trees & fence. SO in same direction over several STs/gates. Eventually TL along track to reach lane (**GR ST 230 965**) where TR along lane.

9.3 After 0.6 ml when lane BL away from forestry on RHS, & 100 YDS after the Mynydd Maen Common Sign on RHS, reach wide TK on R. TR leaving RD (045°). After 250 YDS arrive at path fork. BL (040°) onto fainter path. The TK will gradually BL & becomes fainter & fainter crossing rough ground to reach broad stony TK, SO to Pylon L20. SO (350°) over rough ground for 120 YDS to reach a TK T JCN. TR. At a fork take R Fork.

9.4 TK becomes a grassy TK a bit less distinct. At end of stone wall SO ahead on the TK (030°). The TK BR to run to the R of a fence along the forestry boundary. Follow this TK as it follows the forestry (now mostly felled) boundary fence for about 1.5 miles ignoring a well-defined TK going uphill to the R on the way. **Beware a hole in the ground on the way.** 50 YDS after ignoring a fork L into the forestry reach a corner in the forestry with a steep drop ahead, to reach:

Self Clip B (GR ST 266 992)

9.5 Follow the TK uphill to the R, initially (240°). The TK levels out & BL (180°). TK then descends more steeply towards a deep valley, where the TK forks, take the R fork. At the bottom of the valley X a small stream & follow the TK round to the L past some brick ruins on the RHS to descend along the valley soon meeting a fence on the LHS. When the TK forks take the L fork towards a small lake. TK becomes a wider TK as it goes along the lake. At the end of the lake go SO along the rough very stony track (030°) passing through a metal barrier. When the track goes to the R take the L fork onto a narrower stony TK. TK descends small bank to arrive a Fork, take L Fork. TK becomes grassy, go SO downhill into a wide Gully (020°) towards a ST with some houses to the L. (Please be quiet at night). X the ST to reach a lane, SO downhill.

9.6 Follow the lane as it BR then BL where, at a lane junction with a black barrier, take the L fork which is a tarmac lane. Join another lane from the L to BR downhill. Reach a broad tarmac area & a Bus Stop on LHS. Ahead to T JCN & BR up the lane ahead (030°). (**Do not take the lane downhill to the L**). Pass to the R of a green corrugated church to reach houses. Take the pavement on the LHS side of the RD & follow this past the Gwent College down to the finish. (GR SO 284 002)

FINISH – WEST MONMOUTH SCHOOL 
TOTAL MILEAGE – 52.3 MILES
Opens 2000 Hrs – Closes 1000 Hrs