

Open to Offas

Route Description 2022

23 mile Route



Abbreviations used

R/L=Right/Left; TR/TL=Turn Right/Left; BR/BL=Bear Right/Left; RH/LH=Right/Left Hand
OD=Offas Dyke; GR=grid reference (all have the prefix SJ)

All bearings are magnetic and are shown: {305}

TR past church and continue straight on up road. After 400 yards, TL up road and continue to crossroads. Ahead on road which shortly becomes a track. After a further 400 yards, pass two gates on RHS. Ignore and continue for approximately 1 mile on track to road. Turn left on road and in 50 yds reach carpark. Go through gate in wall immediately to L of gate by cattle grid with 'Moel Famau Country Park' sign on the other side. TL steeply up hill with wall on your L. At top continue on OD path for 0.8 miles. *The 15 mile route comes in here from L.* Continue for a further 1.7 miles to reach Jubilee Tower on summit.

MOEL FMAU	GR 161626	5.1 miles
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Leave tower on {150} and through kissing-gate (*NOT the stile close to the trig point*). Follow solid dark blue arrows all the way to descend on main path for 1 mile ignoring all turns L and R. Continue straight ahead at crossing track and again at large black grouse. Ignore first path on R but at next junction BR down good path with stream on R leading directly to lower car park.

CP 1	PICNIC SITE	Drink Stop	GR 171610	6.4 miles
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Leave car park via footbridge and up steps. Pass toilet block ignoring steps to R and go through small car parking area. As driveway bends L, BR on footpath through gap for 10 yards and BL on path parallel to road. After $\frac{2}{3}$ mile, when path emerges into car park, crossroad to car park opposite (GR 162605). Go through to end of this car park and take steeply rising path which starts between two short wooden posts and then goes through a kissing gate. Continue and at top of wooden-framed steps TL along embankment. After 120 yards, BR off embankment to summit.

FOEL FENLLI	GR 165601	7.5 miles
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Leave summit on {175} and, on reaching embankment, descend flank of hill on {140}. Follow path down to merge with path with OD waymarker, aiming for RH side of forestry below. (*The next five miles, to CP 2, stay on the OD path throughout*). Go over two stiles, alongside forest, over third stile and BL across field. TL alongside fence to go over stile at forest corner. Continue ahead with fence and trees then wall on your L to reach fingerpost (OD) and turn R on grass track. In 100 yards, BR away from fence to follow OD waymark with line of trees on your L. Continue ahead on main track to reach A494 road (GR 166582). TR up road. (*Take great care on this busy road – the barriers don't offer much protection*). At brow of hill crossroad. Ignore first track on L and 80 yards later BL on tarmac track. As track bends R, go ahead over stile between two gates. Turn L up field with fence on L. As gradient eases, BR away from fence to stile in fence ahead. Go over stile and ahead over small hillocks to stile 10 yards from field corner (OD signpost). Cross stile and ahead on track. After $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, at head of valley, BR

on narrow footpath by OD signpost. At end, cross stile and TR down wide track (GR 170569). After 400 yards, immediately *after* sharp bend, TL over stile. Continue along track with fence on R for $\frac{3}{4}$ mile and cross stile into lane (GR 168558). TL on lane for 10 yards and TR over RH stile to go up hill with fence on your L. At top, TL to circle head of valley. Go over stile and TR with fence on R for 60 yards. TL downhill following waymarks to cross stile at bottom of hill. Continue ahead to cross stile to L of mast and follow track downhill over stile by gate. After 20 yards turn sharp left on track to gate.

SOUTH END	GR 171542	13.2 miles
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Go through gate with sign 'Gweryd Fishing Lakes'. Go along track passing lake on your L after $\frac{1}{2}$ mile. Pass to L of large building containing café and continue for $\frac{3}{4}$ mile to reach T-junction with road. Go over stile opposite and BL across field {070} to cross stile in field corner. Continue ahead with hedge on L over stile by gate and then, before reaching end of next field, look for stile in hedge on your L. Cross and turn R between hedges. Continue up steps ahead and along path between walls to reach road. Go ahead up to top of cul-de-sac and take footpath to R of bungalow ("Shangri La") to emerge on road opposite church. TR crossroad and follow church wall on left. Cross stone stile on left at wall end and follow path to Old School Room. CP2

CP 2	LLANARMON-YN-LAL Food, Hot & Cold Drinks	GR171542	15.0 miles
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Exit checkpoint building and TR on drive. TL at gate entrance and follow road to approach the front of Raven Inn and go immediately R on tarmac track. Follow FP sign on path to R of garage and between hedges. Cross stile and BR {010} across field to go over stile. Cross next field {345} to stile and continue with hedge on L to go over next stile. TR to follow field edge and cross stile on R. Keep fence on your R and cross footbridge ahead. Go through kissing gate and up track to reach road (GR 191571). Go straight across up lane opposite and continue uphill ignoring all turns for 1 mile. When lane turns sharp R, take lane to L with 'No through road' sign. Lane becomes a track by green-roofed barn on R). 10 yards later, BR on track. In about 230 yards watch for gap on R. Go through and between walls to cross stile ahead with waymark in about 10 yards. Go straight ahead on narrow path through bracken/gorse until fence forces you L, then continue on path to limestone escarpment and top of hill (named as 'Bryn Alyn' on the most recent Explorer map). *Marker posts will guide you on and off the summit*

POTHOLE CRAGS (Bryn Alyn)	GR 197588	16.8 miles
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Drop off crest to R and continue ahead {010} to pick up faint path. Follow it in same general direction to reach track. TL down track by ruined wall and follow round R turn. When track starts to TL go over waymarked stile in fence ahead and down steep narrow path through trees. At bottom, go over stile and TR on lane for 100 yards. TL down track beyond house on L. In 40 yards, TR on footpath, narrow at first, uphill through trees {340} (GR 195594). *(23 & 14 mile routes rejoin here).*

At top, the path widens to become a broad track. Continue, ignoring all turns, for nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ mile, following signs for Maeshafn, to reach stile by gate. Cross stile and BR on wide track to reach road. TL downhill. In 100 yards, BR on track signposted Bryn Tirion Cottage. In 200 yards, shortly after bungalow on R, BR on track (B&B sign). After $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, follow path L *between black metal fence on R and wooden fence on L* signposted Cadole 1 mile. Emerge through kissing gate into field. Stay close to fence on R to go through gate near corner of buildings. Ahead with fence on L & buildings on R to go through further kissing gate on to tarmac drive. Turn L.

BR at next two junctions (following waymarks). Go straight on past buildings and over stile into woodlands. Keep ahead to reach main road (GR 202626). Cross and go through gate

opposite. In 100 yards, BL on track, signposted Tea Gardens, and go gently uphill and then steeply down wooden steps. At bottom TL over bridge to reach buildings.

CP 3	LOGGERHEADS	Drinks Stop	GR 198626	20.3 miles
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Retrace steps over bridge and TL. Follow the Leete Path for 0.8 miles passing kennels & cattery on left to road. Cross road and continue along the Leete Path for a further 1.6 miles until you reach a road. The path is well signposted and at all path junctions, follow 'Cilcain', 'Leete Path', or 'Devil's Gorge'. [At one junction the sign is on a post on the L a few yards before the junction].

When you reach the road (GR 188652), TL downhill. Cross bridge and continue with care on road *steeply uphill*. At sharp RH bend go straight ahead on footpath (signposted Pentre Cilcain). Continue ahead over three stiles to reach steps/stile in corner. Go up steps and over another stile. TL along field edge to cross next stile. Continue ahead, ignoring waymarked gap in fence on L, and go through trees to reach lane at gate/stile. TR uphill past to reach village. TL at cross roads to Village Hall.

FINISH	CILCAIN	Food & Drink	GR 176652	23.2 miles
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Well done! We hope you enjoyed it.