

Open to Offas

Route Description 2025

32 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}

PLEASE TAKE EXTREME CARE WHEN CROSSING THE A494 AT CLWYD GATE

THERE IS A CUT-OFF TIME OF 13:30 AT CP3.

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 passing through two gates to road. Turn left on road and in 50 yds reach carpark (*the 24 mile route turns left towards Moel Famau at this point*).

TR and follow OD path up Moel Arthur. At marker post (550 yds), TL to Hillfort (GR 146662).

At top of Moel Arthur (GR 145660), TR down path to meet OD path again. TL and descend down OD path to road. Go over style and TR on road.

In 80 metres, TL into car park. Go across car park and through the RH gate onto OD path. After 10 metres, BR up track on OD path.

At track junction (GR 129674), continue on OD track to summit of Penycloddiau. Descend on OD path to CP1

CP 1	Drink and Snacks stop	GR SJ 121689	5.5 miles
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TL onto Clwydian Way (signed Cliffordd Byway) heading SW {224}. (*Note this first part of the track is used by motor vehicles*) Go through 5 gates and continue downhill to road (GR 130664). TL on road and continue over bridge. TR onto bridleway. Stay on this track ignoring the other paths left and right. At the 7th gate (GR 140656), TL on road and continue to CP 2.

CP 2	Cold Drinks and Food stop	GR SJ 146657	10 miles
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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 gate on left.* Continue for a further 1.7 miles to reach Jubilee Tower on summit.

Leave tower on {225} and follow the main descending path (OD) to the right of the kissing-gate. Descend on main path for 1.6 miles to reach the top car park at Bwlch Pen Barras (GR SJ161605). Turn left and go through gate next to sign "Coed Moel Famau" **Self Clip 1** and follow path adjacent to road for 2/3 mile or 1 km to the lower car park.

CP 3	PICNIC SITE Cold drinks and snacks Toilets GR171610	15.1 miles
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[CP 3 is the split point. Make sure you check out before leaving. For 32 mile route you must leave before 13:30 To divert straight to CP5 Loggerheads see separate route description at end of these notes].

Retrace your steps to return to the top car park at Bwlch Pen Barras After $\frac{2}{3}$ mile, when path emerges into car park, cross road to car park opposite (GR 162605). Go through to end of this car park and take steeply rising path which starts by a wooden post 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	16.3 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 4, 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 shrubs/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 cross road with care.** Ignore first track on L and 80 yards later BL on tarmac track. As track bends R, go ahead through gate and turn L up field with fence on L. As gradient eases, BR away from fence to gate in fence ahead. Go through kissing gate and ahead over small hillocks to kissing gate 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 through kissing gate. 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, TR 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	21 miles
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Go through gate with sign 'Gweryd and Llanarmon-yn-lal'. Continue along bridle track passing lake on your L after $\frac{1}{2}$ mile. Pass to L of large building containing café (closed) and continue for $\frac{3}{4}$ mile to reach T-junction with road. Go through gate 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, cross road and follow church wall on left. Cross stone stile on left at wall end and follow path to Old Schoolroom.

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 gate (there may be cows in this field). **At this point follow the signed Livestock-free route to the right, which will take you along the river to the stone footbridge.** Cross the bridge and 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*

BRYN ALYN	GR 197588	25.4 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 through gate 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). *(15 mile route rejoins 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. 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 A494 (GR 202626). **Cross with care** 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 towards buildings.

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 through three kissing gates 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 crossroads to Village Hall.

FINISH	CILCAIN	Food & Drinks	GR 176652	32.3miles	6102 ft ascent
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Well done! We hope you enjoyed it.

Diverted Route - CP 3 PICNIC SITE to CP5 LOGGERHEADS
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Go down through car park and continue on enclosed path – at its end turn right to emerge onto the road. Cross road and go down lane. Stay on lane for ¼ mile round bend, past cottage to second cottage. Immediately beyond cottage, turn right through adjoining gate and follow bridle track for 1.4 miles. At farm buildings and barn, follow path to the left and go through metal gate. Descend for 100 yards and turn left on track at edge of wood. Follow path at edge of wood, through gate and field to meet for a farm road. Follow track downhill and continue to main road A494.

Cross road with care (fast moving traffic) and take path opposite. Cross stile and follow path to bridge and cross stream to stile at far right of the field.

Curve R after crossing stream & continue along RH side of field. Cross stile and continue on path over metal fence with spring on L, past old quarry on L and through two further fences to reach old metal gate on R.

Continue on track for 100 yards to pass through another gateway. 10 yards beyond, opposite cottage, double back L on footpath, narrow at first, uphill through trees {340}. *You have now rejoined the 32 mile route.*