



Penallt Circular Walks – Troy Farm

Length:	6.8 km (plus another 2 km each way if going into Monmouth); total ascent: 290 m
Time:	100 to 120 minutes (plus another 25 minutes each way if going into Monmouth)
Grade:	Adventurous: Two climbs and a steep descent, many stiles. Walking boots advised.
Starting point:	Pentwyn Green, Penallt's village green situated above the Bush Inn.

The route takes in ancient woodland, mixed woodland and pasture, with short stretches on road. An optional extension provides a route into Monmouth town via a farmyard.

THE ROUTE

- a. From the village green, and with your back to The Bush Inn, take the track on the right following the sign to Pentwyn Farm Cottage. After about 200 m cross a stone stile on the left into a field. Follow the edge of the field, keeping the hedge on your right. Leave the field over another stone stile to the left of the field gate. Turn right on the tarmac road and follow it downhill and round to the left, forking left at the junction and continuing along the road for about 150 m to a fingerpost and stile on the right.
- b. Cross this stile and follow the edge of the small field down and then left to another stile in the bottom corner. Cross this and follow the path down through woodland – Probyn's Allotment - emerging over another stile onto a metalled road.
- c. Turn right on the road for about 50 m and then, opposite a road T-junction, take a stile on the left into a field. Ascend the field, keeping the hedge on your right, to a stile at the top which you cross.
- d. Turn right immediately and, ignoring a path coming up steeply from the left, continue in the same direction and admire the fine panorama to the left (3) before entering a wood after about 400 m, ignoring a well-defined path going right, up the hill, just beforehand. Our path is not registered as a public footpath but this is Open Access land and is therefore accessible. Continue ahead for about 500 m, and as the path begins to descend, follow it left until it forms a T-junction with another path.
- e. Turn left and follow the new path steeply downhill. At the bottom, turn left again, catching a glimpse through the hedge of the fields below to your right. After no more than 50 m, notice the waymark post on the right guiding you via some steps down to a stile.
- f. Cross the stile and turn half left, walking diagonally across the field below, aiming for the gateway guarded by two large oak trees. On a clear day there are distant views from here into the Brecon Beacons and the Black Mountains. Below you lies Troy Farm, and away to the right, Monmouth nestles at the foot of the surrounding hills, with glimpses of the old railway viaduct and iron bridge over the river Wye. Leave the field by its entrance gate, turning half right and descending a farm track for about 350 m until you arrive at a stone-built water trough on the right of the path.
- g. This is the point of departure for those walking on into Monmouth, some 2 km distant. Notes **m** to **s** at the end of this description describe this part of the walk. For those on the circular walk, turn acutely left at this point, facing diagonally up the hill, keeping the fenced-off slurry pond to your right, and aiming for the gap in the hedge on the far side of the field. Pass through the gap, climbing the gate if need be, and continue on a similar line across the top of the next field, aiming to meet the top hedge about half-way along. Follow the edge of the field, keeping the hedge on your left, and leave the field through the right-most of two metal gates. Keep going across the top of the next field, again keeping the hedge on your left, and find a stile in the top left-hand corner of the field.
- h. Cross the stile and enter Troy Orles wood. After 50 m turn right and cross the small stream, then continue upward through the wood, crossing a green track after 150 m and continuing through the woods again on the other side, eventually entering a region of bracken before locating the stile which gives access into a sloping field. Cross the stile and stay close to the tree line on your left, skirting around the upper edge of the field until you reach a large oak tree

Instructions for extending the walk into Monmouth

- m.** From the water trough (point g above) continue down the farm track towards Troy Farm. This is a working dairy farm so please proceed quietly and be prepared to turn back if the farmyard is full of cattle. On entering the farmyard the route turns left in front of two corrugated iron barns, then right past the second barn. March boldly straight down through the farmyard and out onto its access road, pausing to admire the once-impressive Troy House on your right. Cross the vehicular bridge over the river Troddi and continue until the access road meets the road into Monmouth.
- n.** Turn right onto the pavement and follow the road as it curves round to the left, taking great care as the road is frequently busy with fast traffic.
- o.** Pass the speed limit signs on the outskirts of Monmouth and then, just beyond the bus stop, turn right into Beech Road.
- p.** If you have half an hour to spare, an interesting diversion to the two disused rail bridges is possible by turning right into Troy Gardens and following the estate road for 100 m or so, passing through the wicket gate adjacent to the children's play area.
- q.** Continue into Monmouth by walking down Beech Road towards the exit ramp from the A40, following the pavement to the right by the traffic "no entry" signs, down to an underpass where the river Monnow goes under the A40. Follow the pavement through the underpass and continue towards the mini-roundabout and traffic lights ahead.
- r.** At the traffic lights, turn left and cross the river Monnow using the pavement of the road bridge. After crossing the bridge, follow the main road round to the left by a mini-roundabout, into Blestium Street. At the far end of this road, turn right into Monnow Street.
- s.** The town centre lies ahead, with all a weary walker could require! After sampling the delights of Monmouth, return to the water trough above Troy Farm via the outward route, before resuming the circular walk at point g.

