



Penallt Long Walks – Magpie

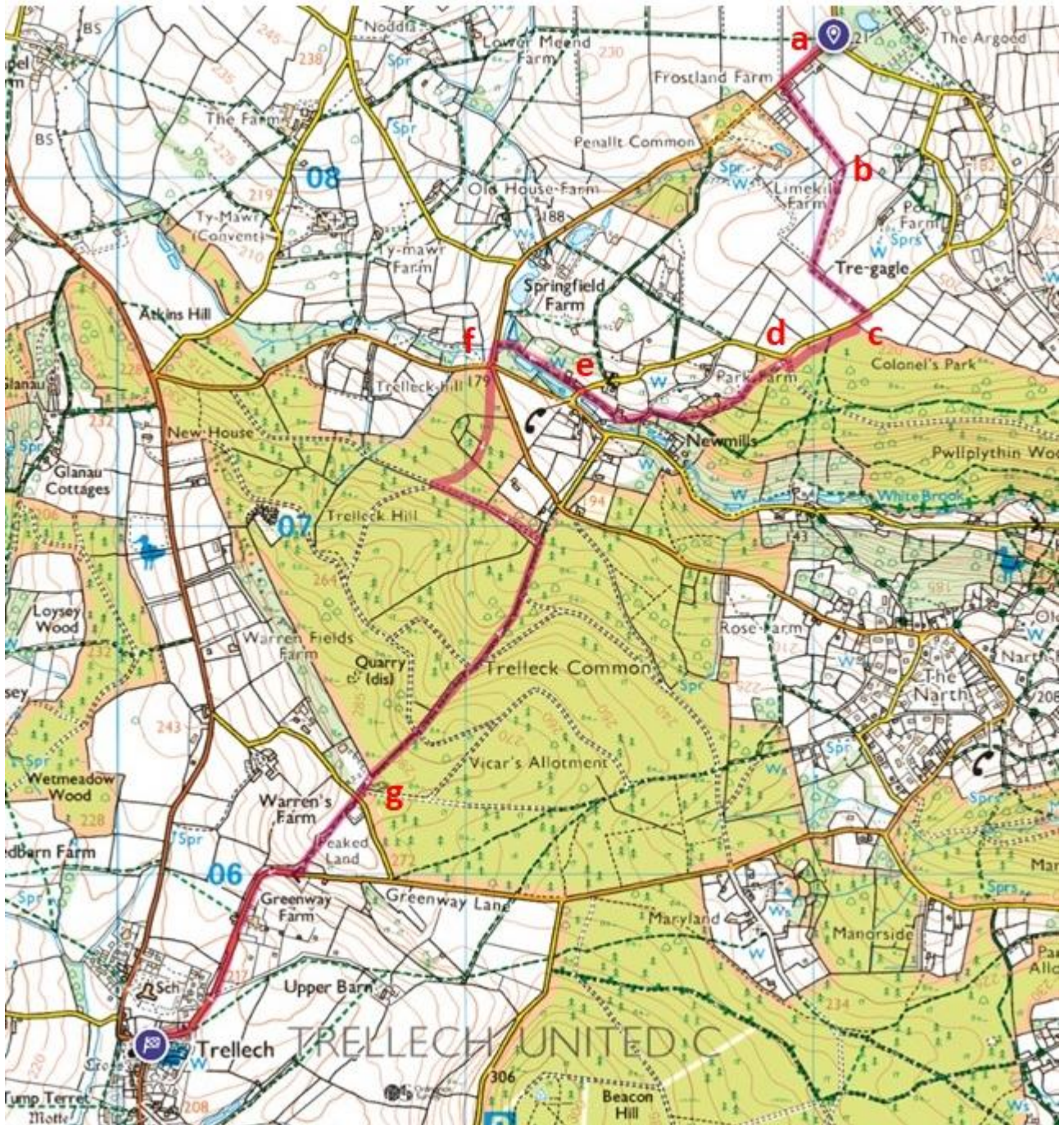
Length:	5.1 km (130 m ascent) – part 1; 5.3 km (110 m) – part 2
Time:	80 to 160 minutes, the shorter time is if you get the bus back!
Grade:	Two moderate climbs, several stiles
Starting point:	Tre-gagle bus stop (SO 5206 0840).
Dog friendliness:	Stiles between (a) and (c) can be avoided by taking the road option to the east. Similarly, turning left at (g) and then right at the next T-junction avoids stiles in the off-road section. Return: Road options avoid stiles between (h) and (i) and also the off-road section through (k)

The route takes in pasture, ancient and mixed woodland, and arable with short stretches on road and ends at The Lion Inn in Trellech – return is either via an alternative walk (h to k) or the 65 Bus.

THE ROUTE

- a. From the Tre-gagle bus stop walk 200m South West along the main road just past the brow of the hill. Find the footpath sign and turn left, between the workshop buildings and a bungalow. Straight down a short track to the stile and then follow the hedge line on your right. When the hedge turns a corner, keep going straight across to the next stile.
- b. Over this stile the path heads off at 45° to the right aiming 20 to 30 m to the right of the large tree in the centre of the field. At the far corner of this field cross into the next field through the open gateway and turn left keeping the hedge on your left – you are on the field access track. Over the stile at the end and turn right onto the metalled road. After about 40m enter the woods on your left (between two boulders) and then immediately turn right on a woodland path.
- c. Keep no more than 50 m from the road staying in the woods, ignoring paths off to the left. Keep going until you arrive at a small parking area. Enter this and you will find a continuation of the path starting close to the road at a gap in some fencing and then gradually diverging left.
- d. Follow this path down to a path T-junction where you turn right and continue until reaching a gap in a short fence. At this point the footpath enters a garden so be careful to stick to the path which exits the property along their drive. Keep any dogs on a lead.
- e. At the metalled road cross straight over. Open the gate into Newmills House and follow the drive past the house and garden - ducks, geese and chicks abound so be careful - keep any dog on a lead. Go through a gate and into an adjacent field– keep straight on until you see a way-mark pointing 45° to the left (just before a pond on your right – ignore those on the left). Cross a footbridge and follow the path to the metalled road; turn left and follow the road for 50m to the cross roads.
- f. At the cross roads look for an entrance to the woodland directly opposite and slightly right. Enter the woodland and follow the path up the hill until you meet a forestry gravel road. Here, turn left and follow the road for 320m; continue following as it turns to the right up the hill. After 200m the track bends left but you carry on up the path straight ahead (blue waymarker) – keep on this path uphill for 500m ignoring tracks to the right and left. and cross over a gravel forestry track and carry on uphill for a further 250m.
- g. You emerge in a small car park next to the road – opposite is the underground water reservoir (serving Penallt) and just to the right of this is the footpath you need. Follow this path and cross a stile into a field. Keeping the hedge line close to your right, pass an old railway wagon (!) and carry on, following the hedge line as it turns to the left. At the bottom of a slope, look out for a stile down on the right. Cross it and follow the waymark to the left, across the top of a tiny field and then down some steps to a metalled road. Turn right down the hill and into Trellech where you will find the Lion pub on your left. The 65 Bus will stop here if you do not want to or are incapable of walking back to Penallt.

Route to The Lion



- h. Route back** – leave the pub and turn right retracing your steps, following the signpost to Maryland and The Narth. After 100m, on the bend at the entrance to De Clere Way, you will find a set of steps leading up the bank to a stile and the start of the footpath. Enter the field and head at about 45 degrees left. If a crop is growing you may find it easier to walk around the edge of the field to the left. Either way, arrive at the top left corner of the field where a gate opens onto a metalled drive. Turn right onto the drive and follow this for 200m until you find a stile on the left – cross this into the field and head at 45 degrees right, following the waymark towards a stile into another field where the path continues straight on for 150m to another stile after which head up towards a small building in the right hand corner of the field. Here, ignore the temptation to keep straight on across the stile in front of you. Instead take the stile on your left, then stay close to the hedge on your right and continue to a road.
- i.** Over the stile, cross the road and through the gate to follow the path for 300 m, ignoring turnings to the right and left. You arrive at a gravel forest track where you turn right – follow this

track straight down the hill ignoring an obvious turning to your left. After 325 m at a track T-junction, take the left hand route, staying on the main gravel track for the next 750 m and ignoring a path down to your right and two others up on your left. Eventually the track sweeps downhill to the right, rejoining your outbound route. About 200 m down the hill, take the next forest track to your left.

- j. After 320 m take a narrow path downhill to your right and continue back to the cross roads. Cross over and take the Penallt road for 150 m (ignoring the first footpath to the right) then take a stile to your right, opposite an electricity pole. After a short distance descend some steps and cross over a footbridge and up the bank to a stile. Over the stile and head up the field keeping the barn ahead just to your right – once the hedge starts keep this to your right and follow it to the stile at the top of the field.
- k. Over the stile and turn left onto the footpath, then over another stile and straight on up the track keeping the white house to your right. After 450m you meet the Penallt road and you turn right – and return to the starting point.

