

# Mitchel Troy Loop 3.5 miles, allow 2 hours for the views, steep up and down, OS Explorer Map OL14 Car park at SO492104

This is a pleasant circular walk of about three and a half miles through fields and woodland and along old country lanes, with some of the best views in Monmouthshire. It has one section that rises fairly steeply, with a corresponding downhill section. It has many stiles that are not dog friendly.

From the church car park (1) at Mitchel Troy, go through the churchyard past the fourteenth century preaching cross and the recently conserved medieval lych-gate. Turn right along the pavement to the traffic islands by the old Village School (closed in 1991 and now a private house). Cross over to Church Farm and turn left into Common Road.

After 20 yards, climb over a stile (2) to your right, turn left and then immediately bear right uphill past the information board to follow the sunken track to a high stile. This old track way is known as the Ridgeway, once used to cart stone up to the lime kiln on Craig-y-Dorth to produce lime for the fields.



Treowen House

Follow the stone drive uphill, with great views towards the Black Mountains. Look for Treowen, the large mansion house, once known as the tallest house in Monmouthshire, in line with the Sugar Loaf.

Go past Highway Barn and through a field gate and carry on uphill (ignoring the stile on the left) with ever expanding views on your right.

Alternative route marked with red dots on map using paths with the permission of the landowner - cross the stile (3) in the fence on the left into a field. Continue over the next stile and up a large field, which is often muddy and cut up from the horses that graze in it, keeping the fence and an overgrown hedge on your right. It is possible to count several different tree species - oak, hawthorn, ash, blackthorn, field

maple, holly, hazel, damson, spindle and elm - in this old hedgerow. You are passing Highway Barn on the other side of this hedge. Above the Barn, cross a stile (4) on the right over the fence by a collection of ash trees. Turn left along the hedge to rejoin the route.



Craig-y-Dorth gate

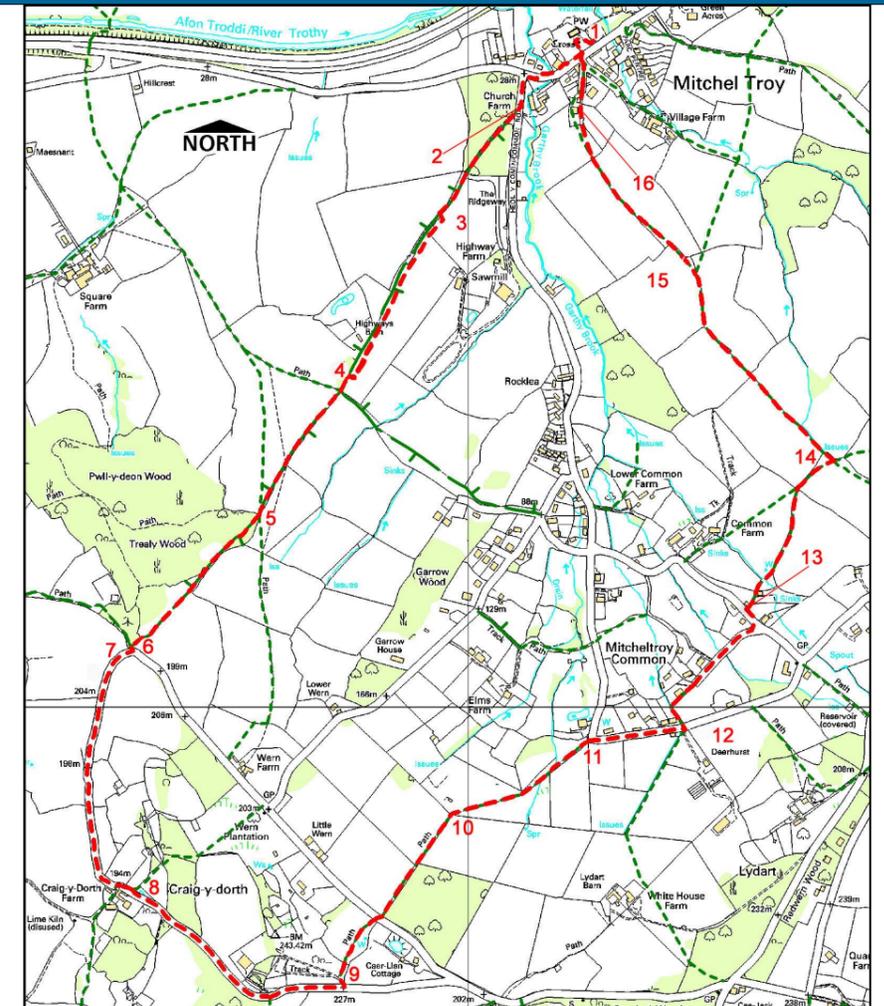
Go through a seven bar metal gate (5) into unmanaged woodland, with young trees to the right, mainly alder, and bluebells in the spring. At the top of the woodland path, go over a stile. Nearby is a stone with initials carved on it that might be an estate boundary. Climb steeply up to the right hand corner where there is a welcome seat, put in by footpath volunteers, next to the Craig-y-Dorth gate. Take a breather half way up and turn around for views of Monmouth, the A40 going along to the tunnels, St Michael's Church appearing above the trees and the Kymin in the distance.



Go through the gate (6) and turn right on to the quiet lane that follows the contour of the hill round Craig-y-Dorth. As you walk along this lane, fantastic views pan out to your right, from Twmbarlwm in the south-west, along the Brecon Beacons to the Bloreng, with Pen y Fan in the distance. Then comes the Sugar Loaf (pretending to be a volcano), with the Little Skirrid in front and the Skirrid further east, followed by the Black Mountains and the escarpment of Hay Bluff looming over the valleys where Owen Glendower is reputed to have lived out his days. Finally, The Graig is followed by Garway Hill in the north.

There is a dew pond in the first field just over the hedge (7). This field is known as Upper Battlefield. It may be the site of the Battle of Craig-y-Dorth when in 1404 supporters of Owen Glendower turned on the English forces of Henry of Monmouth (later Henry V) and chased them to the gates of Monmouth. Further along the lane, look over the metal gate in the spring into a field of wild daffodils.

Sugar Loaf and the Black Mountains across the Trothy and Usk Valleys



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- Key:
- - - = Footpaths on Mitchel Troy Loop
  - - - = Other public foot paths
  - - - = Other bridleway
  - - - = Other restricted byways

Beyond Craig-y-Dorth house (8), after a steep rise in the road, look out for spring-time displays of snowdrops in the roadside banks and bluebells in May down the steep bank among the trees. Views to Croes Robert Woods and High Glanau house open out. The field on the right has massive boulders of conglomerate, that can be found in outcrops all over Craig-y-Dorth and in local stone walls and gate posts.



About 500 yards from Craig-y-Dorth house, turn left off the lane at a finger post (9) next to a double gateway and then almost immediately right to a stile and gate into a field that often has Jacob sheep grazing. The path goes steeply downhill (it's nearly all downhill now!), through bluebells in May to a stile at the road. If you wish to sit down to admire the view over Monmouth, there is a seat 50 yards to your left.

Cross straight over the road and step up on to the path that runs downhill between a hedge to the right and a fence to the left. At a stile with stone steps (10), turn diagonally right and follow the direction of the waymark down to the fence corner. Keep on downhill following waymarks and stiles out to the road (11).

The view across the Trothy Valley to the woods above Wonastow and into King's Wood can be seen over the houses on the left as you bear right along the lane. The cream cottage used to be the old Post Office. At the far side of Brookmead (12), turn left by the finger post down a narrow path and follow the path as it turns right and then



View of Monmouth with St Michaels Church, Mitchel Troy

continue along the lane to the end.

Turn left into the road and go downhill 20 yards to the entrance to Ivy Cottage (13). Turn right into this entrance at the finger post, set deep in the hedge. The route goes through the private garden of Ivy Cottage, so please keep to the path by the boundary on the left, down steps, across a stream and up and over a stile into a pasture field.

Follow the hedgerow on your left to a stile in the corner. Go over this and, ignoring the stile immediately on the left, continue to follow the hedge to a stile down amongst trees (14). The map shows the footpath veering into the field to meet other footpaths but the stile is easier to find if you keep closer to the hedge. Go over this high stile and downhill through two fields keeping the hedge on your right and over two stiles in the bottom right hand corner of each field. Look out for mature oaks and field maple. The views to north and east constantly change and open out as you go down. The white house directly in front of you on the other side of the Trothy river is Wonastow Court with Wonastow Church next to it behind the farmhouse.

Continue down a third field to the stile in the bottom right-hand corner, ignoring the earlier stile on the right (15). Carry on down this field, keeping the hedge on your left, to a stile in the bottom left hand corner. Go over the stile and bear slightly to the right following the direction of the waymark to a gully leading down to a stile onto a track, next to the house called Belvedere (16). Just after the gate, notice the memorial to Jim Daglish, who walked these paths for many years and kept them open for all to enjoy. Follow the lane down hill until you come out on to the main road opposite the church gate.

If you walk with a dog, please be aware that there is livestock in some of the fields and dogs should therefore be on leads and kept strictly under control. Please follow the Country Code:

- Be safe – plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people

The paths in the fields next to Highway Barn are not Public Rights of Way and are walked with the permission of the land-owner. This permission may be withdrawn at any time.

It is strongly recommended that this leaflet is used with the Ordnance Survey Map OL14.

Mitchel Troy Church Car Park (at SO492104) can be reached by bus numbers 60 and 83 on the Monmouth to Newport/Abergavenny routes. Contact Traveline Cymru on 0800 474 00 00 for timetable and bus stops.

The Mitchel Troy Community Group is not able to guarantee access to any of the Mitchel Troy Walks and is not responsible for their maintenance. For further information, please contact Mitchel Troy Local Paths Group on 01600 715618. Any comments would be very much appreciated.

The photographs in this leaflet were kindly provided by Elaine Savage and Rosey Ringer who retain the copyright.

The publication of this series of leaflets has been made possible with the aid of a Community Environmental Grant from Monmouthshire County Council and a grant from Mitchel Troy United Community Council.



Published by Mitchel Troy Community Group with assistance from MCC Countryside Service. Original printed by Clarke Printers on recycled paper March 2011. Updated by Mitchel Troy Paths Group October 2019.

## Mitchel Troy Walks No 1

### MITCHEL TROY LOOP



Church of St Michael and All Angels



Church Farm Guesthouse

THE BEST VIEW IN MONMOUTHSHIRE