

Getting to the MGC via Ratlinghope

This is the longest route but also the easiest if you have a trailer – it is the least steep.

It uses our local main road west of the Long Mynd. The road runs from Shrewsbury to Bishops Castle, lying between the Long Mynd and Stiperstones hills. Being classed a C road its number does not appear on signposts, but is a good normal road in a large area of single-lane roads. Not to be confused with the official A road route (A488) between Shrewsbury and Bishops Castle, which is west of the Stiperstones.

From the North

At the A5 and A49 junction south of Shrewsbury (roundabout with traffic lights) turn into Shrewsbury.

Keep in the left-hand lane, straight-on at retail park entrance roundabout, keep LH lane at the second roundabout (with traffic lights) and take 2nd exit, signposted Nuffield Hospital, and B4380 (the old A5), heading west towards Oswestry.

Keep in the left-hand lane, keeping left after 150 yards, following B4380/Nuffield Hospital sign.

At the next roundabout turn left, signed for Nuffield Hospital and the village Longden. This is our local main road.

Follow this main road (variously signed to villages Longden, Pulverbatch, Ratlinghope and Wentnor). After Pulverbatch it climbs the Long Mynd to reach Ratlinghope.

After approx 10 miles at the sign for Bridges Pub on a bend (was Horseshoe Inn at Bridges) turn left off the main road. Signed for Church Stretton. This turn should have a Gliding sign at it. (Don't be tempted by the earlier left turn for Picklescott which is soon after the Ratlinghope village sign.)

The single-lane road with passing places starts here. After approx 1 mile (over a bridge, round a sharp left turn and past a couple of houses) turn right at a T-junction following sign for Church Stretton (and another Gliding sign). This takes you up onto the Mynd (over a cattle grid) on the gentlest gradient road.

At the T-junction on top of the Mynd turn right. After about two miles on the hill top the gliding club will appear on the left.

Map:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Vt45s4jL324VdkHrzCMgBJ6O2rd9eykg&usp=sharing>

From the South

From A49 one mile north of Craven Arms turn left on A489 to Bishops Castle.

Keep on this road past the south end of the Long Mynd until just past (about 500 yards) the Bishops Castle turn. Turn right (off a sharp left-hand bend). Signed for Wentnor, and should have a Gliding sign. This is the start of our local main road.

After approx 5 miles (past More, Norbury and Wentnor) turn right at the Bridges pub (was Horseshoe Inn), signed for Church Stretton. There should be a Gliding sign. Then as directions from North (single-lane road with passing places starts here).

Map:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1zaokCFNfyYxgYVE3CZeDNhCexzE3d8m4&usp=sharing>