



Access Guide to The Meayll Circle, Meayll Hill

Manx National Heritage has the guardianship of many ancient monuments in the landscape. A number of these sites are publicly accessible. Please note in most circumstances the land is not in the ownership of Manx National Heritage and visits are made at your own risk.

We recognise that visiting the Island's ancient monuments in the countryside can present difficulties for people with disabilities. We have prepared an access guide for visiting Meayll Hill to help you plan your visit. This access guide does not contain personal opinions as to suitability for those with access needs, but aims to accurately describe the environment at the site.

Introduction

The Neolithic chambered cairn near the summit of Meayll Hill, near Cregneash Village, is the most outstanding of the Manx megaliths (stone monuments). It is an exceptional monument in the Isle of Man and also within the British Isles.

The Meayll Circle comprises 12 burial chambers or cists, arranged in pairs around the circumference of the monument. We know that each cist contained fragments of charred bone, pottery and flint, which tells us a little bit about how people lived in the Neolithic period. We know that they took great care in how and where the remains of their ancestors were placed for eternity. Artefacts found at the site are on permanent display at the Manx Museum in Douglas.

Near the summit of the hill, you will also find the remains of a Second World War Chain Home Low Radar station.

Getting to The Meayll Circle

Meayll Hill is situated in the far south of the Isle of Man, near Cregneash Village. It is grid reference SC 1895 6778. It is a publicly accessible site. The footpath to the site is very steep and difficult in wet conditions. Any route to the Meayll Circle includes a steep uphill walk.

By Car: From Port St Mary, follow the signposts for Cregneash Village up the Howe Road. Continue up the road for 2km, passing Cregneash Village. After the Village turn right onto the Ballnahowe Road towards Port Erin. There are two potential places to park, depending on which pathway you chose to follow. Please see 'Access for Visitors' section for more details.

By bus: Cregneash Village can be accessed by bus from Port Erin Bus Station, from there it is a 15-20 minute walk to the Meayll Circle. The journey time from Douglas to Port Erin is approximately 60 minutes. It is then a 15 minute onward journey from Port Erin to Cregneash on the No. 28. For more detailed information and timetable please see www.iombusandrail.info. When you arrive at Cregneash walk past the Village and turn right onto the Ballnahowe Road. Please see 'Access for Visitors' section for more details.

Access for Visitors

There is no vehicular access to the Meayll Circle and it cannot be seen from the road.

From the Ballnahowe Road there are two possible walking routes to access the Meayll Circle. One route is shorter (Route A), but very steep and uneven (3-5 minute walk/scramble). The other route (Route B) is longer (10-15 minutes), but less steep with easier terrain.

There is a stile to climb to get to the site.

There are no toilets or visitor facilities at the site.

Route A:

If arriving by car turn right onto the Ballnahowe Road towards Port Erin (just after Cregneash Village). After 0.5km, park in the grassed lay-by on the right (Grid Reference SC 1890 6786).

There is a short public footpath leading up the Meayll Hill towards the site. This footpath is very steep and difficult in wet conditions. The walk or scramble is 3-5 minutes. The descent is more like a scramble. There are no handrails.

When you have reached the Meayll Circle there is a stile to climb to access the site.

See photographs below:



Parking area at the bottom of the path



Showing steep path and rough terrain at the top of the route

Stile at the top of the path to access the site



Route B

This route is a 15-20 minute walk, although the path is less steep and less uneven underfoot than Route A. This route leads visitors to the summit of Meayll Hill, from which there is a moderate and uneven descent to reach the Meayll Circle. There is a stile to climb to access the site.

If arriving by car, turn right onto the Ballnahowe Road towards Port Erin (just after Cregneash Village). Park in the grassed lay-by on the left as you turn in. This is also the best route if you are arriving by bus or on foot.

This route also leads you past the remains of a Second World War Chain Home Low Radar station.



Alternative route to the Meayll Circle



Alternative route to the Meayll Circle – showing green lane

Once at the summit of Meayll Hill there is a moderate descent on an uneven path to reach the Meayll Circle



Stile to access the site



Further Information:

Please observe the Isle of Man Country Code when visiting ancient monuments in the landscape. This is to protect yourselves, the wildlife, farm animals, and to preserve the natural beauty of the Manx countryside.

Please remember that you are responsible for your own safety and for others in your care, so dress appropriately, wear stout footwear, be prepared for changes in weather and other events. We recommend letting someone else know where you are going and when you expect to return. Remember to bring your mobile phone with you, but don't assume you will always get reception at some of the more remote sites.

If you would like to speak to a member of our team about visiting the Meayll Circle or other ancient monument sites please email: enquiries@mnh.im.

For more detailed information about the site please see 'A Guide to the Archaeological Sites of the Isle of Man up to 1500AD' by Andrew Johnson and Allison Fox (Culture Vannin, 2017), available to purchase from the Manx Museum Gallery Shop and online: www.manxnationalheritage.im