

**Location:** Llangollen and World's End, Denbeighshire  
**Weather:** Breezy and cool but dry with sunny spell  
**Party:** Jeff (Leader), Lynn, Mike H, Jim  
**Distance:** Distance: 12 miles  
**Ascent:** 2700 feet (according to Where's the Path website)

A much truncated group (this is not a comment on the stature of members of the team) set off from the Mill Street Long Stay car park in Llangollen, around 10.00 am, and headed over the canal and round the mound of Castell Dinas Bran. There was some early enthusiasm for rushing the hill but this was resisted by the leader to avoid peaking too early. The sun was out and the weather crisp and extremely clear and the group was soon on the Clwydian Way walking past Valle Crucis Abbey. This dates from the 13th century and was founded by the white-robed cistercians, who originated in Brittany. The ruins of this abbey are quite compact but somewhat ruined by a large caravan site next door. One can only speculate on the approval process for this development.

We had an early coffee stop at a set of thoughtfully provided picnic table set back into the hill, with some curious dedication plaques, recorded for posterity by Jim. Continuing north along the path, we soon came to the Eglwyseg River which was crossed on a footbridge, before heading uphill towards Eglwyseg Mountain, and Offa's Dyke Path. This was hard going along a fence line so the leader opted for a scramble up some scree to gain the contour path slightly higher up the slope. This led up to the top of the escarpment and to World's End where we had lunch. The lunch stop was not too long as once stopped the wind turned out to have quite a chill to it.

The route back was to be along the top of the escarpment of Eglwyseg Mountain so we heading back southwards, following a path with white route indicators. This took us around the base of Craig Arthur and along the contour at the top of limestone outcrops. The wind was fairly strong up here but the views were wonderful across to Llantisilio Mountain and onward to hills in the far distance, which as usual led to some dissenting views as to which was which, but Cadair Idris had some supporters. Around this time the leader opted to carry on round the contour at one of the streams set back into the escarpment, rather than follow the white arrows which led up the stream valley. This proved to be a dubious choice and resulted in some off piste work to regain the path later.

Eventually we arrived at the Llangollen end of the panorama walk and came down to a lane behind Castell Dinas Bran. Surprisingly the team was still up for going to the top which was great as the leader had not been there before. After the steep climb on the north east side of the mound, we inspected the ruins and the interpretation board, and were surprised to find that the castle had had a very short life in the 13th Century and had been abandoned after english attacks. The views from the top were much admired and some time spent scratching heads over the mysterious statistics coming out of the Satmaps. These appeared to suggest our height gain was over 4000 feet, clearly not the case, a puzzle which remains unsolved. On-line mapping suggests the profile involved about 2700 feet. Discussion over, we headed down towards the town and the car park from where we returned to the Dysart garden following the sad end of the Yew Tree.

Jeff