

BUMS BBQ Trip Report – Bosley Cloud, Congleton

Location: Bosley

Weather: Mixed, but always wet

Party: Lesley and Mike A (leaders), Selina and Mike, Jeff, Debbie, Sue Lancaster, Jim G, Lynn and Tony, Sarah and Steve, Ann, Mike H, Dawn and Pete (visitors), three dogs-Ellie, Spot and Riley

The Walk: From Bosley to the Cloud (343m), Macclesfield canal, returning to Bosley

Distance: 9 miles **Total Ascent:** not much over 343m **Time:** 4.5 hrs

The final count of 16 had fluctuated somewhat over a 24 hour period, but at last 4 carloads headed, using various routes, to Bosley where a very long lay-by provided ample parking. We suspected the day might not be quite as set fair as the last weather forecast and very soon we were donning waterproofs, but a light drizzle was not too bad.

Leaving Bosley we strolled through fields heading downwards towards the River Dane at a lovely bridge and then upwards on a quiet road towards our ascent of the Cloud. Another even quieter lane lead us to a right hand turn across fields, ever upwards towards the craggy outcrop. The 'Best Pub Walks in Cheshire' book, from where the route was extracted, tells the reader of the unique stone built farms which are around here and indeed we passed one. It did not tell us about the 'grand design' home which has sprung up since the book was written, affording the occupants marvellous views.

By now the rain was getting a little heavier. Most walkers opted for the longer but less steep path around the hill but Sarah and one of the leaders (who should have known better) went straight up the side on a narrow steep path bordered by bracken. By the time we all convened at the top, not only was the rain heavier but it has also turned to freezing hail, which is not expected in August! Sad to say no views were either visible, nor sought as we hurtled as fast as our legs would carry us, down the south westerly side of the Cloud.

Tree cover offered a brief coffee stop before we all got exceedingly cold and decided to soldier on towards the canal.

Several paths and wet fields later found us on said canal.

With minutes Riley (newbie dog), hearing his mistress say he hated water, decided to contradict Lynn and hurled himself into the canal. Whilst Spot and Ellie looked on sagely, the rest of us found the sight of a dog, doggie paddling in the brown water, hilarious. He came out, went in again, repeat, in again....until he found a tiny moorhen to chase. Tony finally took control and dragged the soggy mutt out and back on the lead went Riley. Both baby moorhens and mother were safe.

Onwards we went, still wet, until we found a wider canal bridge under which we cowered to eat a hasty lunch. Some BUMs had to continue to the next bridge as one bridge was simply not wide enough to accommodate us all.

At bridge 57 we left the canal and shortly retraced our steps back to Bosley and the dry cars.

By this time the leaders were keen to make haste back to Bunbury to light the BBQ for the expected 32 guests at 5:00.

Everything fell into place on the night with the rain holding off and a delicious BBQ enjoyed by all.

Corkscrew hire is definitely the way to go to limit the clear up time (please note next BBQ volunteer).

Lesley