

Trip Report: The Clwydian Hills

Date: 29th October 2010

Group: Mike (Leader) & Lesley, Selina & Mike, Jim W, Lynn

Route: Moel Arthur (456m) - Offa`s Dyke Path - Penycloddiau (440m) - Clwydian Way back to car park

Total Distance: 8.5 miles

Total Ascent: Unknown

Weather: Windy & mainly dry

Time: 4 hours 30 mins

Plans to venture into the Welsh mountains were scuppered by an unfriendly weather forecast of 60mph winds so the less exposed (and only 1 hour away) Clwydian Hills were selected for the latest midweekender. A civilised 08.30 rendezvous was the upside but we had to leave without Jean who had contracted the ladies version of manflu. It was great to have Mike & Selina along to regale us with tales from the Himalayas and also because it is their last BUMS walk before being banished to Indonesia.

We found the car park without a problem and the start of the walk took us straight up to the summit of Moel Arthur, an ancient hillfort. We had to hang around there for a while as Jim was having a navigation lesson from Mike on the ancient art of something or other. It required at least 2 large people to sit on the map to prevent it being blown to Prestatyn!

There were excellent views in all directions including south to Moel Famau which remains unfinished business from the blizzard hit Christmas family walk last winter.

We dropped down to a forest road and then following the Offa`s Dyke Path ascended Penycloddiau which is another ancient hillfort containing an interesting but not so ancient mound on it`s summit. It had started to rain during the climb but it didn`t last long and again we had great views of the Mersey estuary and the Vale of Clwyd and to the north, the North Wales coast was clearly visible.

We descended the ridge to the point where the path meets the Clwydian Way and as it was sheltered from the wind and the sun was threatening to show, we made it a coffee break.

This was the turning point of the walk and we now headed back south on the Clwydian Way which zigzagged around below the ridge but still with excellent views of the Vale of Clwyd. Lunch was taken overlooking a bizarre unfinished construction which certainly taxed the minds of our group. If Mike can get his pictures onto the blog we could possibly get some more ideas.

We continued back through some boggy woodland and arrived back at the car park and then to the Dysart by 15.00 which must be some sort of a record.

Mike A