

Trip Report: A Nantlle Ridge Circuit

Date: July 13th, 2019

Group: Steve (leader) & Sarah, Selina & Mike, Ali & Dave, Lynn & Tony

Total Distance: 8.2 miles

Total Ascent: 3250 ft

With a group of our keenest mountaineers away doing a hut-to-hut walk in Slovakia it was good to find that there were 8 other BUMS up for a visit to Snowdonia. Selina & Mike and Ali & Dave decided to take advantage of the campsite and pub in Rhyd-Ddu to save themselves an early morning start while the rest of us headed out from Bunbury at 7am.

A trouble-free drive got us to Rhyd-Ddu in good time but only to find - as warned by Selina over WhatsApp - that it was rather grey and overcast with cloud sitting low over the hills. Nonetheless the car park was almost full and there were numerous groups preparing to head off on the Snowdon path. Our route set off in the opposite direction and rather than immediately tackle the steep climb up Y Garn, and into the cloud, we decided to use an alternative path gently up through Beddgelert Forest. By the time we reached Bwlch-y-ddwy-elor a thirst for coffee had developed and we took a break to boost caffeine levels.

The weather forecast had promised improvement throughout the day, with lifting cloud levels, but as we turned to head north-west and continue climbing we soon found ourselves enveloped in mist at about 500m. A steady haul took us up to join the Ridge at 700m where we found that, in addition to poor visibility, the wind made conditions rather unpleasant. After a short discussion about our options (and showing great faith in the leader!) the group headed west along the Ridge towards the next summit, Mynydd Tal-y-mignedd, which is marked by a large stone-built obelisk. This is a perfect place for lunch, offering marvellous views in all directions - except when covered in cloud! We had lunch there anyway except for Selina and Ali who stopped at a particularly well sheltered spot a bit earlier, knowing that the rest of us were returning shortly.

So we re-traced our steps and then continued north-east over the next summits on the Ridge, Trum y Ddysgl and Mynydd Drws-y-coed. The terrain became increasingly rocky and the misty dampness meant that all the rock was slippery but everyone managed to carefully work their way over the difficult stuff. The bonus of moving slowly was that the lifting cloud at last revealed a view of the coast and back along the Ridge to the obelisk. We reached the final top, Y Garn, and took a break in the shelter before taking on the steep descent back to the cars. Unfortunately, the descending proved an uncomfortable experience for Mike and Dave with their knee and foot issues and the flat path at the bottom was particularly welcome.

During the day we had heard the whistling of locomotives on the Welsh Highland Railway several times and as we approached the car park there were trains pulling into the station from both directions - almost as if Tony had arranged the timing! (just visible in my last photo - [Nantlle Ridge pics](#)).

Selina & Mike and Ali & Dave were staying another night at the campsite and so - I guess - enjoyed their rehydration at the Cwellyn Arms in the village, while the rest of us headed back to Bunbury and were joined by Caryle in the sunshine at the Yew Tree.