

Trip Report Aran Fawddwy**Date:** June 16th, 2018**Group:** Steve (leader), Sarah, Les, Ann & Neil, Chris & Chrissie, Jo, Cate, Mike H, Dave C**Route:** Aran Fawddwy from the north ([link to Walking Britain](#))**Total Distance:** 8.6 miles**Total Ascent:** 2600 ft**Weather:** Not as nice as it has been lately!

A summer Saturday in Snowdonia and we didn't see even one other walker. That must be a BUMS first!

Thinking about it, there are a couple of possible reasons why we didn't come across anyone else. Aran Fawddwy is the highest point on a long ridge and, as such, is quite a popular summit but is usually climbed from either the south or the east, along the ridge. So the route that we took, approaching from the north, although described in Walking Britain, is not walked very often. And, unfortunately, we had picked a day to do the walk that turned out to be cloudy, wet and cool!

Even as we got toggled up at the cars there was plenty of discussion of clothing options and most of us chose to put waterproof trousers on from the start, with only Mike and Neil deciding to leave legs exposed to the elements. The walk began up the lane we had taken from the main road and then followed a track over fields and into a conifer forest. We climbed gently up a wide forest road and managed to find various ways around or through an obstacle of a couple of large fallen trees before reaching a stile at the edge of the woodland. The route then followed an indistinct path next to a stream, upwards across the open hillside until we reached a fence. From there the navigation was simple because it was simply a matter of following the fence, which had a bit of a path on each side, and trying to avoid the few really boggy areas. The wind was on our backs but we were in cloud with frequent showers and so we settled for a quick, standing stop for coffee and clothing adjustments before the final 2k of steady climbing to the top.

We found some good shelter in the lee of the summit trig point and waited for the clouds to clear and allow us the promised "wonderful views over much of Snowdonia". As you may have guessed we had to just settle for the simple pleasure of eating a packed lunch in the company of friends!

With no sign of the forecast improvement in the weather we began our descent by initialling retracing our steps as far as a particular ladder stile over the fence we were following. At this point we turned away from the fence to head due west across some rough and tussocky ground. Understandably, it was rather slow going but at least we soon got below cloud level and could see the area of woodland that we were heading for. About an hour later we reached the woodland after suffering the heaviest shower of the day. Thankfully it was also the last shower of the day and although we weren't dripping wet by the time we got back to the cars I think everyone was feeling rather soggy.

However, I'm pleased to report that didn't dampen the mood at The Dysart, especially as we arrived shortly after Bunbury had a downpour!