

## Trip Report

BUMs mid weeker

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Walkers: Lesley (leader), Mike Arrowsmith, Selina, Chrissie, Andrea, Jeff, Debbie, Steve and Sarah

Spot (canine)

Caer Caradoc and Cardington

8 miles, 2276 ft of ascent, max height reaches- Caer Caradoc 1512

Weather- absolutely beautiful

From Church Stretton the squad parked in a layby off the B4371 and rendezvoused perfectly ready for a 10:15 start. Off we strode up towards the first hill -Three Fingers Rock. Sarah was our hill leader as the rest of the squad tried to take a lower path but to no avail. The correct way was straight up the nose of the very steep hill. With a few groans everyone made it to the top where we had a coffee stop, marvelling at the wonderful views over Church Stretton and beyond to the hills on the Caer Caradoc ridge.

It was an easy stroll over the ridge with a very steep descent to a col where we turned right to gain a track which took us first to Willstone and then on to the absolutely delightful and very remote village of Cardington where we stopped for 30 minutes or so to admire the beautiful architecture of the Royal Oak pub.

We had lunch on a grassy slope adjacent to the pub and then retraced our steps through the village and upwards – oh yes, forever upwards, to attain the next ridge of the Hope Bowdler Hill.

By now some of the party were realising their lack of hill fitness and as the sun beat down we sauntered, drifted, rose and angled our way upwards till we were able to look directly across to Caer Caradoc and patted ourselves on the back for a) not getting lost and b) managing the climbing.

These hills are 560,000,000 years old and I think we all felt the sense of history especially as the Romans had been here and the hill is named after Caractacus the celtic warrior.

As brave as Caractacus, our stalwart BUMs spotted the cars and decided enough was enough.

The Dysart beckoned and within an hour or so we were soaking up the sun and the beer at the Dysart.

Well done everyone. There was more climbing than I let on and it was harder than I advertised.

However I bet you all felt the benefit and Selina will now always be carrying her own rucksack as she trains once more for the hills.

\*\* note to Andrea—time to get a bigger rucksack before the winter.

The walk can be found in: Shropshire and Staffordshire – Outstanding Circular Walks – Ordnance Survey