

Golden Valley Walk

Walk Date: Friday 29th August 2025

Distance: 10.3 miles

Ascent: 1820 ft

Walkers: Dave Bond (leader), Christine, Jim G, Steve & Sarah & Mike W. (+Roxy and Leo)

With everyone turning up at the Pavillion on time, and with little traffic en-route, we soon reached the parking area at All Stetton, and quickly booted up. We were soon on our way, with far reaching views from the start.

There are a few things in life that shouldn't be trusted! a weather forecast being one of them. Despite forecasts ranging from light showers to longer periods of rain, we set off in warm sunshine and blue skies which thankfully stayed with us all day.

After parking some 450ft above the valley floor, the ascent to the ridge was quickly behind us as we now entered sheep pasture, on a good grassy path, over the undulating Betchcott Hills.



A left turn saw our descent down into the Golden Valley, which, after a long period of no rain, lived up to its name.

We continued down into the Darnbrook Valley and a coffee stop.

Proceeding down the valley, a long stretch of woodland brought us to a lane.



Our long ascent back over the Long Mynd began, initially along a narrow lane, before swinging left at Coates Farm, to soon reach open access land where lunch was taken on the grass, with views of the Welsh Hills.

The climb continued with the leading group arriving at the top of the climb, and with the second group out of sight, and clearly some way behind, a halt was called, and the wait began.

Had they managed to get lost following an obvious path? A return to the lunch spot to retrieve lost belongings? A medical emergency? Eventually they arrived, the explanation being that they had been befriended by a wild mountain pony and her very young foal only a few days old. Luckily Steve had some carrot remaining from lunch to share with them.

With the hard work done, a steady 2.5mile descent began with a 'lively' debate regarding bracken cutting on the Long Mynd! – the matter being resolved by Mr. Google.

With some Friday afternoon traffic to deal with around Shrewsbury, the group regrouped in the beer garden at the Dysart for refreshment.

Thanks to all those who participated.

Dave.