

Trip Report: North Wales

Date: 12th April 2014

Group: Tony (leader), Lynn, Colin, Jeff, Ian and Caryle

Route: Cader Idris

Total Distance: 6.5 miles

Total Ascent: 3000 ft

Weather: Cool and overcast, misty at altitude

The original trip was planned for Bowfell and Crinkle Crag in Lakeland but the weather forecast wasn't great with drizzle and gusts of winds on the fell tops, so the leader scanned through the planned list of 2014 classics and decided on a switch instead south to Cader Idris.

But there was a problem with the switch, the chairperson and husband were sitting in their camper van in the Langdale valley waiting for us to join them for the Bowfell walk and the chairperson had a 100% walk participation record to maintain. And so it was with regret that we found ourselves driving south towards Dolgellau instead of north to Dungeon Ghyll.

After a couple of hours drive we arrived at the car-park and at 9:15 we started our walk along the Minffordd path for an initial steep ascent of Cader Idris. At 9:20 Carlye announced she'd had enough and was unsure if she could get the top!

Luckily the rest of us were convinced that she could get the top and after changing to a more leisurely approach from the usual BUMS rush we moved on through the beautiful Minffordd wood and Idris waterfalls.

The path took us higher to the shore of Llyn Cau with some intrepid campers and a great spot for a coffee break. Our route along the Minffordd path now went along the ridge to Craig Cau (791 m). The rocky ridge is a great route and on clear days presents dramatic views of the lake below but sadly not today as we were well in the clag but at least it wasn't raining.

Cadair Idris seemed to take an age to reach in the mist, but at last we reached the trig-point at 893m. Lunch was enjoyed in the shelter of a shelter at the summit and the spirits of the group were at a high now that we had only a steady descent ahead of us.

The path eastwards was a difficult one to trace in the clag but armed with nothing but a paper map and a compass the leader navigated the group successfully along the grassy ridge towards Mynedd Moel. The walk was not without its false turns but we did manage to avoid falling off any cliffs as our route continued our route to Moel Mynydd.

In such low-visibility conditions the site of a stile with a yellow arrow and even a grid-reference is a welcome one and we descended through to Minffordd Wood and back to the cars.

Well done to Carlye who after an initial wobble, eventually wobbled successfully all the way around the circular route and we celebrated with a well-deserved round of ales in the Yew Tree, Bunbury.

Tony

Jim