

Trip Report: Caer Caradoc and The Lawley in the Shropshire Hills

Date: 27th February 2015

Group: Mike H (leader) Steve, Sarah, Lynn, Jim G, Lesley, Jeff, Mike A

Route: Church Stretton, The Wilderness, Hoar Edge, The Lawley and Caer Caradoc

Total Distance: 12.5 miles

Total Ascent: 3080 ft

This walk was a plan B as the earlier 5 day forecast was for snow/sleet/rain in the Peak District. So a switch to Shropshire Hills was made and we set off in bright sunshine, grateful that the forecast couldn't have been more wrong. After just over an hour of leaving Bunbury we were walking in the Shropshire Hills.

At the start of the walk there was a myriad of paths so care was needed to keep to the planned route. With such a very experienced group of walkers there was no shortage of advice! Following a newly laid but very muddy track we arrived at a wide col with the high Caer Caradoc ridge to our left. We followed a path onto The Wilderness with marvellous views all around, and then onto Hoar Edge for a coffee stop in bright sunshine. Following a clear Bridleway and then a bit of tarmac we arrived at the foot of Lawley's ridge, where a path then took us along the ridge to the summits of The Lawley and then Caer Caradoc. As we walked the ridge the panoramic views in clear weather provided plenty of opportunities for photo shoots across to The Wreckin, Wenlock Edge and the Long Mynnd. The summit of Caer Caradoc is crowned by an ancient Iron Age hill fort. Local legend has it that this was the site of the last stand of Caractacus against the Roman Legions during the Roman conquest of Britain -hence the name of the hill.

As we reached Three Fingers Rock an extra detour along nearby ridge was added to the route. Despite having managed to climb the steep paths along the ridge there was no moaning about adding a few extra miles. So we achieved arriving back at Church Stretton we had achieved an overall distance of 12.5 miles and an overall ascent of 3080ft. Not bad for a Friday Ramble!!

Mike H