

Trip Report: West of Snowdon

Date: 24th June 2011

Group: Jim G (Leader) Selina, Lynn and Philip (novice)

Route: Llanberis to Llechog (718m) Moel Cynghorion (674m) Foel Rron (629m) Moel Eilio (726m)

Total Distance: 10 miles

Total Ascent: 3700 ft

Weather: Cool and cloudy

Time: 6 hours

A late withdrawal by Lesley first thing (sick so not under starter's orders) left a small party of four including a novice, Philip, recruited by Caryle in the Dysart!

After the usual faffing by Selina in the Co-op getting her lunch; the squad departed Bunbury at 7.40am and an uneventful journey saw us parking near the Snowdon Mountain Railway station just after 9 o'clock. The route starts up the Llanberis path to Snowdon following the railway and the chatter soon dies down as we start going uphill.

A fairly gentle walk takes us to the Halfway House (which is closed) before crossing the railway and heading straight up the grassy slopes to reach the ridge that ends at the rocky summit of Llechog (718m).

Great views down in the Llanberis Pass and the trains chugging their way towards the summit of Snowdon, we take our coffee break here.

Suitably refreshed; we head back down, crossing the railway again and rejoin the Snowdon path for a short way. Where the path turns left for Clogwyn station we head right down an old tramway heading for Clogwyn Du'r Arddu. Contouring round towards the forbidding cliffs we head down to walk around the left side of Llyn Du'r Arddu and negotiate a rough path and boulder field before locating a small cairn at the outflow stream where it begins to drop into Cwm Brwynog.

We then follow a vague and feint path down and across to Bwlch Cwm Brwynog. We regroup here and have a blow as Philip is starting to feel the pace and confesses to never having walked up mountains before!

We pass close to the Snowdon Ranger path heading 500 feet up steep grassy slopes to arrive at the summit of Moel Cynghorion (674m)

Descending steep grassy slopes heading west and the south west to arrive at Bwlch Maesgwm where a large stone wall offers some protection from the wind so we decide a lunch stop is in order. Fortified we now cross a couple of styles and then picking up a stone wall we contour around and then up to the col between Foel Goch and Foel Gron. More steep grassy slopes lead us eventually to the summit of Foel Gron (629m)

Only one summit left to tackle, the 400 feet up to the top of Moel Eilio (726m). We set off up more steep grassy slopes and arrive at the summit which is topped by a large stone wind shelter. We rest here for a few minutes and admire, what must be one of the best views in Snowdonia. You can see virtually the whole of Snowdonia from this summit, Snowdon, the Glyders, the Carneddau, the Rivals, Holyhead Mountain and Anglesey, the entire Menai Strait and Caernarvon and the Castle and many many more.

The descent back to Llanberis follows a fence north then north-east down a ridge of grassy slopes. At the foot of the ridge we follow a vague footpath that leads us to Ceunant waterfall beside the Snowdon Mountain Railway before following a road down and back to the car.

A good journey back sees us in the Dysart shortly after five o'clock for the usual rehydration therapy.

Jim G