

Trip Report: Anglesey**Date:** 267th May 2016**Group:** Lesley (leader), Tony and Lynn, John and Heather, Jim G, Sue Smith, Sarah and Steve, Jeff**Route:** Newborough**Total Distance:** 10.7 miles**Total Ascent:** 0 ft**Weather:** Dry and very sunny**Time:** 4.5 hours

This mid -weeker was planned to take the mountains out of the BUMs—sorry.

However, sometimes it's worth planning something less demanding just to make a change and, having done a walk in this area I knew that if the weather was sunny this would make a very good trip.

First issue - my right hand man was incapacitated therefore I would have to rely on my own navigational skills (!).

Second issue- my route from pathfinder walks book was too short to warrant a fairly long drive into Wales.

Not to worry- just add a bit on. This proved a winning idea. The walk started from the car park right next to a wildlife pool boasting otters, and across the road from the coastal path. What could possibly go wrong.....well we couldn't find the wildlife pool on our first attempt and the start of the coastal path seemed a bit confusing too. Never mind, with a map and a Satmap (thanks Jim), we managed to locate the sea.....just got to remember to keep it on my right throughout. Coffee was taken overlooking Malltraeth Sands.

We walked along the edge of the estuary for a mile or two then emerged onto the most beautiful, pale, sandy beach into Malltraeth Bay. The flowers adorning the dunes were breath-taking and so colourful—I have always wanted to do a wild flower walk—who would have thought it.

We followed the coastal path along the beach for another couple of km - Sarah was beachcombing for most of this. The tide was coming in quite rapidly and then I realised my third issue.

I had forgotten to check the tide tables. At high tide Llanddwyn Island is cut off from the mainland and I did not want our party to be marooned.

Quick thinking Heather, with the awesome power of 4G on her phone, Googled the tide times. 13.39 pm was high tide. With one and a half hours to spare I picked up the pace and marched fearlessly onto the island so we could explore, grab lunch and get off with dry feet.

Phew, we made it with about 45 minutes to spare.

To be fair we knew we would be safe as an elderly group of amateur geologists were just ahead of us and we could have outrun them any day.

We were also told it was a walking festival that weekend.

Safe and sound we continued on our way, regretting having rushed off such a beautiful location. The Newborough beach is ringed in the distance by the mountains of Snowdonia and the Rivals of the Llyn Peninsula - another walk for another time.

I then planned in a short toilet stop at the main carpark which, very surprisingly every single BUM availed themselves of.

We walked back through some lovely woods, miraculously finding the right paths (thanks Jim) and ended up back at the carpark where the wildlife pool was eventually found (thanks Jim).

No otters today but a lovely fluffy red squirrel and plenty of bird life as well as a few dead dogfish which were spotted on the shoreline - answers on a postcard please.

Back to the cars and rehydration in the Yew Tree where we were joined by partners, and others in the garden.

Uneventful, not much of a challenge but a relaxing, beautiful coastal walk.

Lesley