

Trip Report: Moel Eilio & Moel Cynghorion

Date: 15th October 2016

Group: Steve (leader), Sarah, Tony, Lynn, Mike, Les, Jim, Colin, Mike H, Bob, Mike & Selina

Route: A Snowdonia walk, from Llanberis, that covers two lesser-known summits

Total Distance: 10.0 miles (roughly*)

Total Ascent: 3000-3200 ft (*)

* exact figures dependent on whose navigational tool you believe!

The drive along the A55 offered little encouragement for a hill walk with uniform grey skies and low cloud in all directions. At least it wasn't raining in Llanberis when we arrived and got organised for the day ahead.

Correction - we all got organised except Jim who, 2 minutes into the walk, realised that he didn't have his camera and made a hasty return to his car, not least to ensure that he hadn't left it on the roof!

We climbed steeply away from Llanberis initially on tarmac and then on a vehicle track, with everyone soon getting warmed up. After about a mile, on reaching some old quarry workings, we turned onto a path heading due south directly towards Moel Eilio at a steady gradient. The summit was still in cloud and as we got higher a heavy shower suddenly arrived and made everyone scramble for waterproofs. Fortunately there is a good sized shelter on the summit and we all packed in - just! - for a cup of coffee and a bite. After 10 or so minutes some breaks appeared in the clouds and we started to get fleeting views all around but the wind was rather brisk and as we continued along a ridge most of the party opted to keep waterproofs on for the time being.

The route went over two lower peaks, Foel Gron and Foel Goch, before dropping down to Bwlch Maesgwym where there's an intersection of paths that provides an option to head for Snowdon. Our option was instead to head uphill again onto Moel Cynghorion which we reached in less than half an hour, including Mike H who managed to fight off an attack of gardening-induced cramp on this climb. While providing impressive views it has to be said that the summit of Cynghorion is a little disappointing as it is marked only by a cairn of about a dozen small rocks. So we didn't linger there but retreated to a sheltered spot for lunch, a little way back down the hill.

The mountain weather forecast proved to be accurate, improving as the day progressed, and we enjoyed longer spells of sunshine for the remainder of the walk. After descending back to Bwlch Maesgwym we then followed the good bridleway that connects the Snowdon Ranger

youth hostel with Llanberis, stopping occasionally to avoid mountain bikers and/or watch the trains on the Snowdon line.

An enjoyable day in the hills ended with everyone safely back at the car park by about 3pm and the usual gathering at the Yew Tree a little later.

Steve