

Trip Report: Brown Clee Hill

Date: 28th October 2011

Group: Mike (Leader) & Lesley, Sue, Chrissie, Hugh, John, Philip, Graham S

Route: Stanbroughs Wood, Brown Clee Hill (540m / 1772ft)), Abdon Marsh, 5 Springs, Boyne Water, Burwarton Park

Total Distance: 9.25 miles

Total Ascent: 1433 ft

Weather: Sunny

Time: 4 hours 15 mins

A respectable turn out for a Friday despite missing some regulars. Good to see Graham for the first time this year, and John returning after his recent experience on Tony's wet Welsh walk. It was also great to see Hugh again from our Southern branch. It was a stunning day with wall to wall sunshine so that probably helped the numbers.

Our 3 cars managed to rendezvous at the appointed spot at slightly later than the appointed time. The parking area was the start of a forest trail leading up to Brown Clee Hill and therefore we set off on the trail through the maze of woods until the summit was spotted - not a trig point - but the masts and aerials of the radio station which dominates the hill. The summit is marked by an orientation table and from there we had a great 360 degree view of the surrounding area, made even more attractive with mist lying in the valleys. If you are very unlucky it is possible to see Birmingham 31miles away! As this marks the highest point in Shropshire we decided to celebrate with a coffee stop.

From there it was onto the Shropshire Way heading downhill north westerly as far as a tarmac road where we turned to the south through a wood (Abdon Marsh) to rejoin the lane to a point where we started to climb back up the hill. This brought us to a point due south of Clee Hill called 5 Springs where a number of paths criss cross. It is marked by a convenient bench at which it was apparently necessary for our party to stop and take in the superb views to the south west. Not surprisingly there were calls for a lunch stop however the leader had a cunning plan and rallied the troops for the extra kilometre which would bring them to Boyne Water where a lakeside spot had been pre-selected for lunch. The location turned out to be excellent but seating consisted of damp mossy mounds and I'm afraid some members of the party were lacking in the seat department. These were known as the wet BUMS.

From Boyne Water we continued south then east and finally north through Burwarton Park which seems to be a private estate consisting of parkland and woodland and it was just 3 or 4 easy kilometres back to the car parking area. Having spent the day in the sun, it was essential to head back to the Dysart for rehydration.

Not a strenuous yomp but nevertheless a good sociable day out in superb weather to an area not previously visited by any of us.

Worth mentioning at this point that the leader had the assistance (or was it hindrance ?) of a new GPS toy. Not sure it helped with the route finding but it certainly provided a stack of statistics too numerous to mention.

Mike A