

**Trip Report: Wales Coastal Path****Date:** 25th September 2015**Group:** Jim G (Leader), Mike A, Lesley, Mike H, Mike W, Selina, Lynn & Ann**Route:** Wales Coast Path Stage 4 Colwyn Bay to Conwy**Total Distance:** 15 miles**Total Ascent:** 1587 ft**Weather:** Dry, warm & sunny!**Time:** 5 hours

The Leader has dreamed of a linear walk taking in a stretch of the new Wales Coast Path which runs for 870 miles from Chester to Chepstow. The challenge was how to make a linear walk that could provide us with transport back to our start, simple really, take the Tonyesque approach utilising Network Rail! Due to the length of the walk it required a 7am start, bit early for most on a Friday morning, even more of a problem for those who do not read the email instructions and pitch up at the wrong car park! (usual suspects). A fairly uneventful journey of just over an hour, despite my Satnav taking us on a circular tour of Colwyn Bay, saw us assemble at the start at Colwyn Bay railway station. The first challenge of the day was to get across the tracks and down to the seafront, accomplished via an underpass beneath the tracks.

The walk starts along Colwyn Bay promenade and then on to Rhos on Sea, past Penrhyn Bay and on to Little Orme. Great views out to sea and the eagle eyed amongst us are treated to several seals cavorting in the water, unseen by some. At Little Orme we leave the tarmac and head up into the quarry before heading up and left over the top and down the other side to rejoin the tarmac road down to Llandudno promenade. A gentle stroll along the prom, admiring the hotels and chip shops. We stop for a coffee break (harassed by the shite hawks) with fine views of the Grand Hotel (now a bit tatty) and Llandudno Pier. We then rejoin the tarmac at Marine Drive, past the Toll House (free to walkers) the road passes the old lighthouse (now a B&B) and rounds Great Orme Head with Anglesey coming into view. The road continues down to another Toll House at Gogarth before we depart the tarmac for the promenade. We find suitable benches where we park ourselves for lunch (harassed by the shite hawks) with far reaching views of Anglesey, Snowdonia and the North Wales coast. With a train to catch, we continue along the promenade which eventually turns into a path past Deganwy and the North Wales Golf Club before rejoining the tarmac to head towards Conwy Bridge. Once on the bridge we pause for photographs of the bridge

and Conwy Castle and Mike A points out the smallest house in Wales, which, unfortunately is so small it can't be seen! Well ahead of the scheduled 15.21 train back to Conwy, we check trains times and have half an hour to spare before the earlier 14.23 train. What's to be done? three opt for tea, one opts for ice cream, the rest opt for beer. We find a very nice bar nearby called the Conwy Bank and have an excellent pint of Wild Horse Plae Ale, brewed in Llandudno. Suitably refreshed we board the train for the 11 minute journey back to Clowyn Bay, Mike H and Jim G taking great delight in the use of their Seniors Railcard discount! An uneventful car ride back to the Yew Tree sees us arriving before happy hour has even begun! Rehydration is taken in the garden where somebody pointed out that I have probably prized the "tarmac king" crown away from Ian!

Jim

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