

Trip Report: Nantmor & Aberglaslyn Pass

Date: 30th September 2016

Group: Mike A (leader), Lesley, Jim G, Mike H, Selina, Tony, Lynn, Jeff, Ann

Route: Beddgelert - Mynydd Sygyn - Sygun Copper Mine - Llyn Dinas - Nantmor

Total Distance: 10.5 miles

Total Ascent: 2949 ft

Time: 6 hours

It is becoming difficult to find original routes within our 2 hour driving range and we were on the limit here driving to Beddgelert for our September midweek. With a 7.45 start, and a promising weather forecast, we squeezed the squad into 2 cars for our eighth Welsh visit of the year. Wales is popular for the BUMS not just because of the vast number of potential walks available, but it is easy to access - especially on a Friday.

It was a fairly uneventful journey to Beddgelert carpark, apart from the Skoda's computer telling me I had a flat tyre which turned out to be a hoax. We set off through the town and after a few minutes we were climbing steeply up the hillside to Mynydd Sygyn which at 300m was the highest point of the day. On the summit ridge we had our coffee break in the sunshine with superb 360 degree views. To the north Snowdon, Nantlle Ridge to the west and Cnicht to the east. We then followed the ridge north easterly before descending to The Sygun Copper Mine. On the way down, we came across a turnstile entrance to the mine which Lynn could not resist exploring. Luckily the entrance also turned out to be an exit. Meanwhile Tony was enjoying a free audio guide but with a long day ahead, we had to abandon the entertainment and move on.

Soon we passed by the Sygun Mine and followed the River Glaslyn to Llyn Dinas shoreline which we followed for half a mile before turning east, climbing through woodland, and emerging onto moorland where we found a good lunch spot sheltered by a rocky outcrop. An unusual sight was Mike H tucking into his sandwiches. Recent mouth surgery had prevented him from scoffing the usual energy bars and nuts. Pleased to report that his power of speech was seemingly unaffected!

We continued the undulating and at times boggy path until we reached the narrow lane at the head of Nantmor valley. Turning south, we followed the lane for $\frac{3}{4}$ mile before turning off into the woodland to follow the river, threading our way through trees and rocks. Taking the direct route to Nantmor, we left the riverside and headed directly west. This turned

out to be the major bushwacking exercise of the day, attempting to follow an indistinct / non-existent path across fields and moorland. Fortunately, armed with several Satmaps, and with the occasional waymark to reassure us, we kept to the correct route and emerged onto the lane near Nantmor.

After passing through the toiletless car park we arrived at Pont Aberglaslyn and set off along the river towards Beddgelert for the final leg. We had saved the best till last, as the Afon Glaslyn was really spectacular as it tumbled through the gorge. We were so impressed, that we stopped for an unscheduled coffee break to fully appreciate it. The path then levelled out as we walked alongside The Welsh Highland Railway line - sadly no actual trains were witnessed, but I can assure Tony it is a genuine working railway.

We completed the round back to Beddgelert where toilets were located and ice creams consumed. After the 2 hour journey we were rerhydrating at the Yew Tree at 6pm - perfect for the Friday Night Drinks gang and everyone else!

Mike A