

## **Trip Report: Moel Famau Country Park**

**Date:** August 12th, 2023

**Group:** Steve (leader), Sarah, Lesley, Christine and Dave, Ian, Derek, Mike W, Tony (and Ponya)

**Route:** A circuit from Cilcain up and over Moel Famau then down and along the base of the Clwydian range on the western side before climbing back over the ridge .

**Total Distance:** 11.0 miles      **Total Ascent:** 2600 ft

**Photo's:** link to a few photos -

<https://photos.google.com/album/AF1QipMfLRDSZGO2IM3SUnnKFVmEK3yruDXS26mIT2QN>

The parking area in Cilcain that we were planning to use is limited to 5 or 6 cars but, thankfully, by getting there at 09.00 and only taking 2 cars we had no trouble finding space. So we were soon underway on the walk and there was plenty of banter, mainly concerning recent trips: for example, Mike being quizzed about Corsica and Les, Christine & Dave sharing the tale of their memorable adventure in the wilds of Snowdonia!

The initial plod was steady and dry but it didn't take long for the first light shower to arrive and as we got closer to the top of Moel Famau the strong, blustery west wind became more apparent. We found some shelter in the lee of the Jubilee Tower and had a short stop for refreshments. Setting off again in the wind and cloud we followed a popular stretch of Offa's Dyke Path, heading south and passing various walkers wearing rather questionable outdoor gear! We soon left the main track to descend across fields and then picked up a well sign-posted bridleway heading north. (On a previous recce of this walk, months ago, Sarah had mislaid a pair of glasses, which she optimistically hoped to now find, but we didn't exactly duplicate the previous route and failed to spot them. So we just hope that a sheep has found them useful 😊).

As lunchtime arrived we reached a pleasant grassy spot with a small bench and a view across the Vale of Clwyd towards Denbigh moors. It seemed like an ideal place to stop because any showers were approaching from across the Vale and we were able to tell when it might be time to pull on a jacket and move on. Fortunately, everyone enjoyed their lunch without interruption.

We continued north on the same path/track for another mile or so until reaching a five bar gate. This gate marks a point at which the route goes "off piste" to climb due east up to meet Offa's Dyke Path but the terrain was covered with tall bracken and looked distinctly unfriendly. A bit of exploration revealed that 100m further on there was much less bracken and a faint vehicle track where the long grass had been flattened. So we got going on the mile or so of gentle climbing and were grateful for the wind on our backs, although that didn't prevent the group from getting quite spread out. But we were soon back together at the junction with Offa's path and happy to be heading downhill for the rest of the way back to the cars.

In summary, it was an enjoyable and tiring five and a half hour outing, with a considerable proportion of that time devoted to clothing changes prompted by the showery weather! So drinks at the Dysart were well deserved and all of the walkers attended along with a few other BUMS. Thanks to all for your participation.

Steve and Sarah