

Trip Report: The Carneddau from Llyn Eigiau

Date: Sept 29th, 2018

Group: Sarah (leader), Steve, Mike and Les Arrowsmith, Mike Hiscock, Colin, John Hirst, Tony and Lynn Quinn and Riley

Route: Walk 3047 on Walking Britain website

Total Distance: 9.97 - 10.3 miles depending on whose Satmap you believe

Total Ascent: 3400ft

Due to a late sick note from Cate Gregory our group of now nine set off promptly from the pavilion at 7.50 with the hope of an unhindered drive to our starting point for the walk. Unfortunately due to road works and a previous accident on the A55 near Flint the journey took longer than anticipated but eventually we found ourselves driving UP the slightly scary lane that would take us to Llyn Eigiau, the start for today's walk.

Having been promised by the mountain weather forecast a 90% chance of a cloud free summit I became a little apprehensive when cloud and mist came in, however, this was only transient.

We took the track heading northwest from the car park with the Cefn Tal-llyn-Eigiau ridge in view. We followed this track for a while then veered off onto unpathed terrain, as that is what the route description said, and then rejoined the track 5 minutes later!! We continued on this track for a short while until a path heading to the ridge line and the adjacent wall was found. We followed this faint path climbing steadily until we reached the summit of Craig Eigiau. At which point we stopped for some well earned 'onzes', (elevenses) - chocolate brownies supplied by the leader.....future leaders take note!!! We should have also had a view of our entire walk, but the mist and cloud had descended yet again.

From here we headed due west following a faint trod until we joined a clear path that has come up from the access road to Melynlyn Reservoir. From here the path climbed in a Northerly direction and whilst the mist and cloud had lifted bestowing us with magnificent views (and heat) i still managed to miss the path up to Foel Grach. Once we realised my mistake we were halfway between Foel Grach and Carnedd Llewelyn and the consensus was to continue onward and upward to Carnedd Llewelyn. Other than one other person descending with his dog there was not another soul on the summit, which was a first for Mike Hiscock and we were gifted with glorious views of the route in front of us as well as Tryfan and the Glyders.

After the obligatory summit photos we descended a short way before stopping for lunch, where Riley seemed a little miffed as 'his owners' had forgotten his lunch. Though i don't think he minded as he was given bits and pieces from everyone else's lunch including a number of apple cores.

After lunch we continued descending towards Bwlch Eryl Farchog where we all successfully negotiated the 'awkward slab'. From the col you get a great view of Pen Yr Helgi Du, which we quickly reached after some mild scrambling. From the summit we descended easterly towards Bwlch y Tri Marchog. As we did so we watched a rescue helicopter appear to land on the summit of our final climb of the day, Pen LLithrig y Wrach. The climb to the summit is a bit of a slog but once at the top we all stopped to enjoy the far reaching views across to Snowdon, the Carneddau range, Tryfan the Glyders and to Creigau Gleison.

From the summit we headed in a roughly northerly direction aiming for the disused quarry near Cedryn. Unfortunately this was hard work at the end of a long day as there were no real paths and by the time we reached the valley floor there were quite a few grumbling knees, ankles and feet. At least Mike Arrowsmith seemed to forget about his aching right buttock which had been afflicting him earlier in the day.

Having reached the valley floor and track we made short work of the mile slog back to the cars. From there we headed homeward for liquid replenishment at the Dysart, which was much needed after the 6.5 hours of walking. For those of us being transported by Steve we had to wait considerably longer (2 pints worth, according to Mike Hiscock) as we decided to go back via the A5 and Llangollen. Whilst the A5 route may be considerably more picturesque than the A55 it is most definitely longer (if traffic is clear).

Sarah