

Trip Report for BUMS walk on Friday 29th Sept - The Lawley

Walk leader - Sarah Hammond

Attendees: Steve Hammond, Richard and Della Calder, Dave and Christine Bond, Lesley Arrowsmith, Dave Barker and Jasper the Dog.

After some last minute adjustments to squad and drivers, Steve, myself, Dave and Christine, and Lesley all set off in one car from Bunbury at 8am. At the Cholmondley Arms we offloaded Lesley into Richard and Della's car for a less cramped journey to the long Mynd. After a minor detour around a supposed road closure on the A49 we rendezvoused with Dave and Jasper at the start point (a lay-by on the B4371) only to find out that Dave had driven straight down the A49 without taking any detour!

With boots on we set off on a footpath that runs almost parallel with the B4371 to Hope Bowdler village. After negotiating a short stretch of main road we then headed up on a good path over Hope Bowdler Hill. At the top we paused to admire the views which were far reaching. The Wrekin could easily be seen in the far distance and The Lawley still seemed quite a way off, which had one of the group suggesting (not seriously) to turn back.

Onwards, we contoured Willstone Hill, before descending into a rather boggy dell where Richard became acquainted at close hand with how boggy it really was. From here a steep little climb took us to a track where we decided to make the most of a few fallen trees to have a coffee and snack. Suitably refreshed we took the track a short way before turning off onto a path across the 'Wilderness'. A very short section of road followed before taking a bridleway to Enchmarsh. From here a track took us to Hoar Edge where I gave the group a choice of route. Either the longer option down the road and following the ridge line of The Lawley to the summit or the steep track down through the trees and then the steep ascent up the side of The Lawley. I'm glad to say everyone opted for the more challenging shorter route to the summit.

I can't say that there were many complaints en route to the summit, probably because we were too out of breath to talk. But in no time at all we all reached the summit, with only Dave Bond taking a slightly less direct route. On the summit Della promptly took off her boot and removed a piece of metal that was sticking in her foot. This turned out to be a piece of metal wire that had come off a brush that Richard had used to clean her boots with. To Della's complaints Richard replied 'I wondered why you weren't hot on my heels' !! After summiting we descended a little way to get some shelter from the wind and to have lunch.

Once again suitably refreshed we started our descent of The Lawley only for Dave Barker to return to the summit to retrieve his way laid walking pole, fortunately we hadn't descended that far.

No issues were had descending to Comley Farm, now admiring the views to the Long Mynd. From here we traversed a few fields where Steve found out first hand the electric fences were indeed working! Onwards up a short stretch of road we then turned onto a footpath that took us up over Little Caradoc. I gave the group the option of going up and over Caer Caradoc but we decided we would leave it until next year when we would perhaps take it on as one of the BUMS classic walks. Instead we walked over the shoulder between Caer Caradoc and Little Caradoc down to a good track. From here we took a bridleway contouring around the bottom of Willstone then Hope Bowdler hill and eventually back to the cars. Because of our choice to take the shorter, steeper route to The Lawley, we were back at the Dysart in good time to enjoy refreshment in the late afternoon sun in the garden, where we were joined by Tony and Lynn Quinn and Mike Arrowsmith.

A few photos from the walk can be seen at <https://photos.app.goo.gl/PE47MbT8mXTp62n96>

