

Trip Report : Kinsley Wood, Stowe and Offa's Dyke

Walk Date - 31st May

Group

Leader Sarah

Steve

Mike H

Jim G

Dave Cadman

Della

Mike W

Selina W

Distance was 12.5 miles (though Mike and Selina walked 14 and a bit, as they were staying near Knighton and walked to the start) and with an ascent of 2900feet (not meters).

Travelling in two cars we reached the start of the walk in Kinsley Wood, without any hiccups and was where we met Mike and Selina. There was a short discussion on the sign displayed in Knighton claiming Knighton to be the 'Town of the Dyke' and whether the term was politically correct. Still debating the point we began walking on footpaths and then bridleways towards Stowe.

Having descended to Stowe we then followed a good path, steeply uphill first through woodland and then across meadows. Having passed a circular pool we then nearly missed the bridleway off to the left up through Holloway Rocks, but thanks to a lot of throat clearing we backtracked a short way to regain the correct route. After another steepish climb we reached meadows and at the boundary fence we turned to head west (ish) for almost 3k.

After crossing the A488 we stopped for a short coffee break and chocolate brownies, which were supplied by the walk Leader !. Steve then led us up through fields to reach the junction with Offa's Dyke. The following short section of Offa's Dyke would later also feature on the homeward bound section of the walk. Whilst the path was slightly precipitous there were some fantastic views of Cwm-sanaham Hill, which we would later negotiate.

At a junction of paths we veered off of the Dyke and continued for several kilometres on a number of bridleways up and down through 'meadows' of long grass, clover and wild flowers, eventually ending up back on Offa's Dyke.

The following sections of Offa's Dyke are decently preserved and with a view of Cwm-sanaham Hill-we stopped for a well earned lunch and in Dave Cadman's case , a repair job on his feet caused from an over zealous 'self pedicure'.

Having refuelled we made quick work of Cwm-sanaham Hill and were rewarded with far reaching views, even the Brecon Beacons could be seen in the distance! A short while later we said goodbye to Mike and Selina, who were walking back to their campervan. We then followed the National trail back to Kinsley Wood but due to discrepancies with the map and route directions we ended up making our own route up (which was not all downhill as I would have liked) through the wood to get back to the cars. A WhatsApp from Mike and Selina informed us that they were already enjoying a well earned beer. It would be another

hour and 45 mins before we reached the Dysart where we would be similarly rehydrating and where Colin (who was very well hydrated) joined us.

Sarah