

BUMs Trip Report

Saturday 8th July 2023

Walkers: Jim (leader) Sarah & Gerry

Route: Horseshoe Pass-Moel-y-Faen-Moel y Gamelin-Moel Morfydd-Clwydian Way-Plas Yn Eglwyseg-Horseshoe Pass

Distance: 12.1 miles

Ascent: 3122 ft

The original planned route was the Crowden Horseshoe but the dire thunderstorms forecast for most of the day across the Peak District caused a last-minute change to try and avoid them. I decided to look for an area with the least number of thunderstorms and so opted for one of mine and Mike H's favourite training walks.

The walk heads southwest along the fine ridge of the three Moel's with absolutely no route-finding difficulties, so much so that even Gerry said he could lead this walk! On one of the tops we did see a man with what we thought was a fishing rod (a long cast to the river Dee from here) turns out it was an aerial for a Ham Radio enthusiast. We also startled a flock of baby Grouse

From the col below Moel Morfydd we turn south to join the Clwydian Way where we take a coffee break in light rain. We decide against donning waterproofs due to the high humidity, which proves to be a good decision as the rain stops when we reach the valley floor. A bit of road slogging, nearly getting run over a couple of times, we pass through the village of Rhewl and shortly after turn left and cross a couple of fields onto a footpath that is cutting through bracken that is shoulder high (get flash backs of Mike H's notorious Bracken walk in the Lakes) we arrive at our regular lunch spot in an old quarry.

Crossing the main road and passing near Crucis Abbey we turn north on a wide path that turns onto the road to the small village of Plas Yn Eglwyseg where we see a barn full of sheep being sheared, some have a number of bleeding wounds from the experience. The path begins the long steady pull up to the remote Bryn Cottage where we take a well-earned rest and admire the extensive views.

We continue upwards along a beautiful path that eventually turns west and descends down towards the Ponderosa Café. We can see the rain pouring down over Moel Famau and the sky darkening over our heads. We get to the car just as the rain starts to fall and the thunder and lightning kicks off. We get in the car just as the heavens open and the rain comes lashing down, our timing was impeccable!

The drive home starts through the heavy rain with flooded roads but we soon outrun it and arrive back at the Dysart in warm sunshine where we enjoy our rehydration sitting in the garden. We are joined by Colin, Tony and Ponya, but then the heavens open and we scuttle inside.

Jim