

Now that the winter is upon us, a local walk seemed sensible, so the plan took us to the southern margins of Delamere forest. A slightly later start time was a blessing.

Della and Richard
Bruce and Lynn with Cleo
Ian and Sue with Pippa
Sue with Eddie
Janet
Mike and Lesley
Ann B.
Anne M.
Jo and Clare

The first few spots of rain were already falling as the intrepid Bums team set out from Gresty Waste car park. A gentle stroll through Primrose woods, past a stepped well (or was it the entrance to the Kelsall Mines, Richard?) took us to Little Switzerland. We stopped to admire the ramparts of an iron age fort, and then took a lovely path down at the side of a small valley. The leader tried to persuade everyone that the view was worth a coffee stop but there was dissent in the ranks - something about a gale force wind. So we pressed on until a handy barrier appeared on the edge of the road which proved to be an ideal coffee perch. Ian told us that the wall behind us had been built by German POWs, and we tried to decipher the commemorative plaque.

Just as the flasks were being stowed, the skies opened. Torrential rain, and a few hail stones pelted us as we fought our way back to Primrose woods. Thankfully, the deluge didn't last too long. We made a slight detour to admire Urchin's Kitchen, walking through an old glacial river bed and a lot of sucking mud.

Taking our lives in our hands, we crossed over the A54 for the northern loop of the walk. By the time we arrived at the summit of Pale Heights, the skies were blue again and we had our lunch sitting on the monument with wonderful views across the Cheshire plains. A gentle totter down Pale Heights and around its northern base led on to an exceptionally steep minor road up to Eddisbury fort - another iron age construction illustrating how important this part of Cheshire was in times gone by. The last bit of the walk took us along the route of a Roman road back to Delamere forest and the car park. Astonishingly, we didn't lose anyone and nobody fell over. A slightly damp group arrived in the Dysart where we were joined by Selina.

Thanks to all for a great day out.

Clare