

**Trip Report** - Friday 27th Jan 2023

**Route:** Ragleth Hill and Ashes Hollow from Church Stretton

**Distance:** 8.1 miles (approx)

**Elevation gain** 1,835 ft

**Weather:** A bit claggy for Ragleth Hill sadly ... but cleared later!

**Party:** Colin (leader and driver), Tony (driver), Lynn (& Ponya), Mike H (assistant leader), Jim, Dave C, Lesley, Jeff & Debbie (and Spot), Richard & Della

We met as usual at the Pavilion car park with a slight hiccup as Jim Simpson was due to make it for his inaugural BUMS walk but sadly had to pull out at the last minute. Jeff, Debbie, Richard & Della met us there.

After meeting at the designated carpark in Church Stretton the first “moment” was upon us as I made a schoolboy error when paying the car park and thinking I was paying £5 for the day I paid for 5 hours! Oops. Lesley then paid Tony’s car and followed my lead to the letter (so we were both on a time limit of 5 hours!)

The start of the walk took us through a few snickets and over a railway and we were soon striding out to meet the hills (well some of us were!). We looked behind to find the doggy folks and Richard & Della were nowhere to be seen. I don’t lead too many walks but losing half my flock within a mile or two would have been “unfortunate”. However, they eventually appeared and we were told Ponya and Spot hadn’t already indulged in their morning ebullitions and Debbie and Lynn had to find a doggy bin! Meanwhile our trainspotters, Tony and Richard, were captivated by a train (Hmm? I shouldn’t have taken them over a railway line)

Together again, on we marched up Ragleth Hill where sadly we saw zero views for our efforts as the clag meant you could hardly see your hand in front of your face!. A pity as it’s such a lovely view when it’s clear.

We then descended to Little Stretton where Lynn had to take a call to sort out a family issue (which happily was resolved) and we took the opportunity for a coffee stop just before Little Stretton.

After Little Stretton there’s a lovely route up Ashes Hollow following the stream (which could have been a bit of a challenge if it had been very wet). Not only was it not wet, but the clouds dissipated and blue sky emerged! Glorious!

We found a decent place for lunch and continued our ascent to reach the Long Mynd. The original plan was for a bit of a gratuitous “peak bag” up Pole Bank and back but the 5 hour time limit scuppered that.

So we decided to descend back to Church Stretton and again the leader deviated from the original plan albeit this time it was not entirely intentional, but the route back down Townbrook Valley was perfect (well I thought it was!).

Reaching Church Stretton once again we thought we had lost a few but happily I think they were just sussing out the possibility of a coffee stop in town whilst the rest of us headed back for rehydration at the Dysart after saying our farewells.

A lovey day out and special thanks to Mike H for suggesting the route.