

## Trip Report: The Wrekin

**Date:** April 15th, 2023

**Group:** Steve (leader), Sarah, Ann, Lesley, Della, Andrea, Christine and Dave, Jim

**Route:** A loop through woodland to the east and south of The Wrekin followed by a west to east traverse over the summit of the hill (based on [A Little Mountain With Many Secrets](#))

**Total Distance:** 8.1 miles      **Total Ascent:** 2100 ft

**Photo's:** link to a few photos - <https://photos.app.goo.gl/FUtR9DkffMfgxt4e6>

The background to this walk is that when I was thinking about possible new places to go I realised that The Wrekin had not been visited by a BUMS group in the last 10 years at least, although it is a major feature of the landscape only an hour away from Bunbury. And then a web search turned up a document produced by The Royal Geographic Society ([A Little Mountain With Many Secrets](#)) that describes a walk in the area and its numerous items of interest. So, Sarah & I tried it out and then waited about a year before proposing it as a BUMS trip. And luckily we chose a day of decent weather following one of relentless rain!

With an 8.00 start from Bunbury our two cars made it to The Wrekin Forest car park in good time, although we weren't the only early visitors and the roadside near to the pay car park was already lined with cars. While most of the visitors were heading immediately up the Wrekin we started by heading in the opposite direction, following the Shropshire Way into Ercall Wood which is managed by Shropshire Wildlife Trust.

In a mile or so we reached the edge of the wood and followed the path along a short stretch between the M54 on one side and a golf course on the other. We soon turned away from the motorway towards, and then into, Limekiln Wood, a name that reflects an important activity that used to be practised in the area - the production of quicklime from carboniferous limestone. There are some remains of lime kilns in the woods but we didn't manage to spot one (and that's why I have included the photo pinched from the walking guide!).

After a stop for coffee, sitting on some very mossy fallen trees, we continued through the woodland until the path emerged into a field which provided our first good view of the Wrekin with its prominent mast on the

summit. We then had a couple of minutes on a road before crossing to a path on the other side which led to the woods at the base of the hill. A few bluebells were beginning to appear but unfortunately we were two or three weeks too early to see them at their spectacular best.

A mile on a rather muddy track brought us to a junction that meant it was time to stop skirting the hill and start the climbing. Everyone soon found their own comfortable pace and plodded their way up to a perfect lunch spot at a rocky outcrop. Lunchtime chat included some debate about which are the twenty historic counties of England and Wales that are, reputedly, visible from The Wrekin on a clear day. The views from the top were extensive in all directions but it was a bit too hazy for us to have actually seen as far as all 20 counties!



A pleasant, gentle descent, dodging a stream of visitors heading for the top, took us back to the car park and by mid-afternoon we were re-hydrating in the Dysart.