

Sunday 11 January 2015: Glascoed Circular Walk

On Sunday 11 January 2015, 25 LWR members were joined by about 26 members of the Gelligaer Ramblers for a circular walk in the area around Glascoed.

The route of the walk from Little Mill Village Hall car park started by crossing the now abandoned railway line that went to Glascoed Munitions Factory during the Second World War. The factory is still in use, but the railway line is overgrown, although the rail tracks still remain in place. The group trekked south-east over fields and tracks to New House Farm then across streams and through woodland (again crossing the abandoned railway line) and fields, stopping for a tea break next to a small river, where they were closely watched by two horses.



The group then turned westwards through Bryn Farm and passed over a small hill to a country road leading towards Glascoed village. The route led to a field where there were several inquisitive alpacas, which showed no fear of such a large group of ramblers and in fact came very close to several members. Continuing westwards, partly through a nature trail and then climbing a hill past Yew Tree farmhouse, which was undergoing major refurbishment, the group finally reached a ridge that overlooked Llandegfedd Reservoir and also gave great views of surrounding countryside, with the Sugarloaf, Skirrid, and Bloreng in the distance.



The walk continued across fields and a country road to more woodland trails. The group stopped for lunch at an old quarry in an ancient beech wood.



After lunch, the walk continued through fields, then northwards to Cwmhir, where the last stretch of woodland walking led the group out to a spot overlooking a large field that led back to the starting point at the abandoned railway line and Little Mill village. The total length of the walk was almost exactly 7 miles. All 51 ramblers survived the walk: none were lost due to the excellent work of Cardiff Group member Peter, who acted as “back-marker”.