

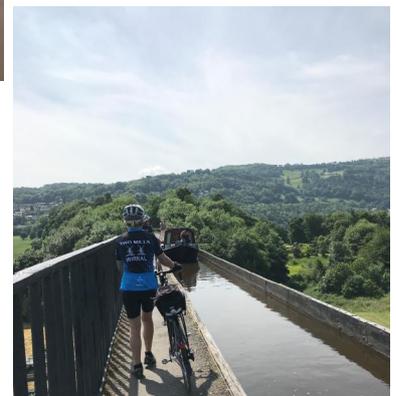
Whittington Castle - 10th June 2018

Climbs, Canals and Castles



Moss Valley Country Park was a new departure point for car assist (in my quest to avoid the middle of *Wreccsam*). Lovely area and a good sized car park but '*facilities*' consist of trees and hedges. Labelled '*leisurely*' didn't mean it wasn't challenging. With nine of us, *UP* was the operative word for the first 4+ miles with stunning views (and complaints that I had not arranged for it to be haze free), and there were other heights to scale on the return, balanced by downhill and flat terrain for the 42 miles in total and 3,000 ft of climbing in all - out via *Southsea, Nant Mill, Mawr Reservoir, Chirk* to *Jones the Boats* for coffee.

We didn't arrive until noon because of an altercation with a farmer re: a *Garmin route* through his farm which had been fine on my recce, but resulted in a defiant walk across two of his fields - thistles and sheep muck included. A quote I hadn't heard before: "*he's a man, but it doesn't mean he's got all his lumps in the right place*" - thanks Sue W. And Brian J's "*typical backwoods man, where men are men and sheep are nervous*".



So we arrived at **Pontcysyllte** at the same time as **Chris, Helen** and **Richard** and saw them later at **Whittington Castle** though we followed slightly different routes.

We returned via **Duddleston** with a welcome tea stop at the beautiful **Overton Bridge** and then wended our way back via **Erbistock, Sontley** and **Bersham** with a surprisingly pleasant route shadowing the **Wreccsam bypass**; arriving at **Moss Valley** via a short bit old railway line (?) at around 5.30pm after hiking our bikes over a fallen tree.



So, a long day for the distance but general agreement that it was a great ride with **Brian L** giving it 10 out of 10 for variety, even including the argument with the farmer. And great company!

Jane Marshall

Text Jane M

Photos, Jane and Richard B

