

The Gop (Bryn Gop): – Flintshire.

(and circular walk)



Height/climb:

180 feet or 57metres

Distance to summit:

530 yards or 500 metres

Time to summit:

15 Minutes

Difficulty:

Easy to moderate: it is a short climb to the summit.

Getting there:

Follow the A55 from the direction of Chester to Conwy. Leave at junction 31 and take the A5151 (signposted Prestatyn) turn right at the top of the off ramp and cross over the A55. Follow road signs for Prestatyn A5151. Continue along the A5151 to Trelawnydd.

On entering the village, take the right turn into High Street.

Parking:

Parking is free in the public car park on the right hand side.

The Area

There is an information board in the car park which gives lots of information about the Gop and surrounding area.

Also go to www.flintshire.gov.uk/history for more information.

Directions.

Leave the car park into High Street and turn right. In about 200 yards, there is a lane on the left between the houses (signposted as a public footpath).



Walk up the lane until you reach the gates of a large white house. Continue across their lawn to a stone stile set in the wall opposite. Climb the stile into the field and follow the path until you reach a sign post.

Take the path to the right signed Bryn Gop and then bear left up the slope until you reach a bench next to a kissing gate. Pass through the gate (signed Gop Hill) and pass through the blackthorn thicket.

After leaving the thicket follow the path to the left to reach the summit.

At the summit:

You will have some stunning views of the surrounding area. Your panorama will take in The Clwydian Range (south), Clwyd Valley (west) leading out to the coastal plain and Wirral/Hilbre Island (east).



Return walk.

You may return to the car park by retracing your ascent. However there is a circular walk which is recommended.

Circular Walk – about 1 hour. (1.5 miles or 2.4 kms)

Rather than return to the car park, retrace your steps through the gate and downhill to the signpost and then turn right (the one after the gate) and follow the path to your right.

Very soon you will see a limestone outcrop to your right although this is sometimes obscured by the gorse bushes. Here are some caves; take time to explore but be careful not to enter

Q1. How do you think that the limestone caves were formed?



Return to the path and continue to your right (towards the farm buildings) until you see a disused dovecot to your left. Drop down from the path to explore.

Q2. What do you think the dovecot was used for?



Return to the path by keeping the farm and fence on your left. There is a gap in the gorse, next to the fence. The path drops down to a metal kissing gate and after that follow the path to the right (ignore the kissing gate to your left).

You will soon see a metal gate. Bear left here and follow the lower path, keeping the woods to your right. After crossing two stiles you will see some farm buildings on your left.

Look for the Millenium Trail sign post and follow in the direction of Trelawnydd. After the second kissing gate you will follow the path with a

hedge on your left and woods on your right. Continue on and shortly the path will bear right into the woods. Go up through the woods. At the top of the rise you will notice a marker post on the right, with blue discs.

At this point follow the path down to the left and through the kissing gate into a field. Turn right and follow the path to a stone stile adjacent to a wooden stile.

Cross the stile and walk up the right hand side of the field (keeping the wood to your right) and take the metal kissing gate in front of you. There is a sign post showing the way to Gop Hill (adjacent to a gate) but ignore this. Follow the path down to the road, turn right and continue back to the car park.

Q3. Legend has it that a very famous person is buried on The Gop; who is this?

Refreshments.

There is service area close to the A55 and in Dyserth are several pubs serving meals all day.

Answers:

A1. Underground streams absorb the limestone and wash it away leaving voids i.e. caves.

A2. Doves would nest there so they provided eggs for eating and of course were eaten themselves by the people who built the structure

A3. Queen Boadicea – from information on the board in the car park.