

Trip Report: The Peak District

Date: 30th April 2010

Group: Lesley (leader) Mike, Lynn, Colin and Roxy, Jim G, Graham, Ann, Hugh

Route: Crowden Head, Kinder Scout

Total Distance: 11.4 miles

Total Ascent: 1804 ft

Weather: Unknown

Scouting for Kinder

Filled with horror stories of how [Jim G, Tony and Colin got lost](#) last time they went to Kinder Scout in the Dark Peak area of Derbyshire, the virgin leader was slightly apprehensive about causing a navigational disaster, the like of which has been unknown since the Cader trip.

Not one to be easily worried the leader persisted despite a gloomy forecast and mist down low on the drive through.

We parked in Edale where we met a remote BUM, Hugh. He had been waiting 45 minutes when the troops rolled up. Sorry about that Hugh. The leader found the walk start easily (it was the start of The Pennine Way) and we headed to Upper Booth via a lovely wooded section. Then the climb up Jacob's Ladder with a proposed coffee stop at the end of the stone steps which was instead converted into a layering stop as a rogue hail shower soaked the gallant crew.

In a few minutes that ended and we walked up a steep path to the first group of amazing rock sculptures. These all have names though it's not easy to guess which is which. Ann was in rapture here as her fevered imagination conjured up strange visions from the rock profiles - sharks (2 of these), ET, some character out of Harry Potter, heads, dogs, and the rest. At the summit we remained on The Pennine Way, at 633 metres, walking over more weather beaten stones till we reached our lunch spot at Kinder Downfall.

In Lynn's eyes this collection of random massive stones resembled a landscaped water feature—Tony, you Garden is not big enough mate. The scenery was amazing here. The waterfall was tiny but the rock structures made up for it. We were quite near the summit of Kinder Scout but were following a different path today heading for the southerly rim of Kinder. After a nerve racking piece of navigation where the leader had plenty of advice, (but in truth it was quite easy as we followed the small River Kinder up into the peat hags till it ran out) we turned south easterly to head across the plateau to Crowden Towers, the next collection of sculptured rock.

From here we viewed a wonderful panorama of the rim of the plateau with more of the outcrops of smooth, weathered rocks. We could chart our route which was just as well as very soon it started to rain and once more layering up took place. It was easy to follow the path east until we reached a choice of descents. I think we took the right one but it didn't matter as we dropped like stones from a clutch of rocks named Ringing Roger - Ann, what do you make of that name then? - and plunged down towards Edale.

The leader, now flushed with the success of not losing one BUM, is ready to undertake another walk in the near future.

Lesley