

Trip Report
Dovestone Edge - 24/9/2020
Distance 9.5 miles, total ascent 1350 ft.

Squad:
Mike H (leader)
Bob
Leslie
Selina
Jim
Mark

This walk, in the Northern Peak District, follows a route on the rocky plateau above the three reservoirs of Greenfield, Yeoman Hey and Dovestone. The first part of the route was an easy walk along the side of the reservoirs to reach a point where we had to climb up to the plateau. This involved scrambling along rocky banks of the brook which follows Birchen Clough. This scramble was attempted by a small group of Bums a few weeks ago but had to be abandoned as the brook was a raging torrent making it far too dangerous to cross. This time following overnight rain, the brook was full making the scramble manageable but challenging. We scrambled up slowly over the wet rocks to reach the point where we had to cross the brook to reach a path on the opposite bank. Crossing the brook was the challenging bit! With lots of hand-holding and shouts of support, everyone made it across safely, much to the relief of the leader. The route continued with easy scrambling to reach the plateau at the top of the Clough. From here we followed an easy path which follows the edge of the plateau. We took a brief stop next to the Raven Stones to admire the view and for Bob to climb to the top of the Trinnacles - three iconic large rocks that jut out from the edge of the plateau making it a great photo opportunity (especially for posers!). The route then continued along the edge with great views of the reservoirs and Saddleworth Moor. We passed a spot where a large cross has been erected the mark the spot where a local MP lost his life in a shooting accident. We continued to reach Fox Stone Cairn , our lunch stop, with great views over Dovestones valley. Near to the cairn there is a plaque on the rocks in memory of two local climbers who died climbing in the Dolomites. We then passed a derelict building called Bramley's Cot which at one time would have been a very impressive Shooters' box for grouse shooting. The path continued to the tarmac road which services Chew Reservoir - the highest reservoir in England. We thought (very briefly) about extending the walk over Alphin Hill but by this stage rehydration was beckoning so we made our way down the service road back to the car park. Despite a poor weather forecast, a scramble along a stream, crossing a waterfall and the odd peat bogging all the group stayed dry! Not bad for a leader with a history of wet walks.

Mike H