

BUMS Walk – Saturday 18th June 2022

Location: Holme Chapel, Burney

Route: Holme Chapel – Thieveley Pike – Portsmouth – Black Scout – Holme Chapel

Weather: Dry and cool with some sun a.m.

Party: Mike A (leader), Lesley (co-leader), Mike & Selina, Steve & Sarah, Chris & Chrissie, Dave B, Ali & Delilah, Janet, Sue L

Distance: 9 miles **Total Ascent:** 1520ft **Time:** 5 hrs

Following our mini heatwave it was back to normal on the climate front, but that didn't prevent a flurry of late additions to the squad for our trip to darkest Lancashire. We managed a prompt getaway at 08.00 and a trouble free journey saw us arrive at the designated lay-by ahead of schedule where Ali from our Manchester Branch had already arrived with her hound, Delilah. (apologies if incorrect moniker).

A good warm up along the A646 footpath brought us into Holme Chapel village where we met the Pennine Bridleway heading for Deerplay Moor. After passing under the railway line and through some sheep fields we faced a stiff climb up to a memorial stone for Mary Towneley. The Mary Towneley Loop is a 47-mile (76 km) circular route that forms part of the [Pennine Bridleway National Trail](#), along the borders of [Lancashire](#) and [Yorkshire](#). The loop was opened in 2002, the first section of the Pennine Bridleway. She would have been pleased to see a few mountain bikers on the trail but no horses and we didn't see a single walker the whole day!

After passing the A671, we left the Pennine Bridleway and headed up onto the moor, taking a coffee break at the head of Black Clough. From there, it was a short tramp up onto Deerplay Moor and the trig point of Thieveley Pike. It is an ancient beacon that was used as part of a chain in times of national emergency. Here, we joined yet another long distance trail, The Burnley Way, as we headed across Heald Moor, disturbing a family group of Highland Cattle en route. From the high point of Heald Moor we descended north east to the village of Portsmouth which is over the border! (Yorkshire).

After crossing the A 646 and railway line we ascended on the Burnley Way and the remains of a building gave a suitable location to have our lunch stop with decent views looking back to the morning's route. By now the temperature seemed to have dropped, so we didn't hang around too long and made the final climb of the day onto the ridge of Black Scout, and an easy walk alongside the wind farm. After passing the electricity sub-station we descended gradually through pastures and a small wood before arriving back at our lay-by.

We said farewell to Ali and our three cars agreed to meet back at the Dysart. It seems there was some mayhem on the M6 (which I was unaware of, having mistakenly taken the clockwise route around Manchester) as Steve arrived 10 minutes after me having diverted through Widnes and Mike W was about 50 minutes later (It must have been at least 50 minutes as we were half way through our second pints!) He had attempted to cut through the centre of Warrington (Never a good idea).

All was well eventually, and everyone successfully rehydrated following an excellent day out in a location no one had ever heard of!

Mike A.