

BUMS Walk – Saturday 13^h October 2018

Location: Hathersage

Route: Hathersage – Stanage Edge 457m – Higger Tor 434m – Padley Gorge – Grindleford Station - Hathersage

Weather: Wet, windy and warm

Party: Mike A (leader), Lesley, Tony, Lynn, Steve, Sarah, Neil, Ann, Dave C, Sue L, Jeff, Colin, Riley (Canine)

Distance: 11.6 miles **Total Ascent:** 2152ft **Time:** 5 hrs 30m

Whenever I lead a walk there seems to be some extreme weather event threatening to wreck it. This time it was Storm Callum with wind and rain wreaking havoc throughout the country, particularly Wales, which is why I picked a route as far away from Wales as possible. Not that the forecast was so inspiring with 40-50mph winds predicted for the Peak district.

Nevertheless a healthy sized squad set off from Bunbury for Hathersage at 07.30 and by 09.30 we were off, most clad in full wet weather gear. As we walked north along Baulk Lane, towards Stanage Edge, the rain ceased, prompting much delayering but further on, as we reached proper moorland, conditions were clearly not so benign. Our last chance of finding any shelter, prompted an early coffee break, behind a wall near to Dennis Knoll.

We now started the final ascent to “The Edge” and as predicted conditions became pretty wild, prompting another stop for uplayering before we hit the top. After a brief misnavigation which led us away from the edge (it seemed to be less scary there) we took the correct route which was obviously right along the edge. There were some interesting moments, trying to stay upright during the gusts, and walking through the spray which was being blasted up over the rim of the rocks. The classic “mwis” description of “severe buffeting” sprung to mind.

We all survived the battering and on reaching the trig point, we even managed to get some photo moments with a few BUMS clinging on to the pillar. We then descended from the edge where it was like a different world. Still windy but not in the same league. The next target was Higger Tor, only a mile away and full of interesting rock formations which had our photographers drooling but today we were interested only in finding a route over the top onto Hathersage Moor. With a minimum of scrambling we descended to the moor and headed towards the Iron Age fort at Carl Wark, which was not on our route to visit but it looked like an attractive (and sheltered) spot for lunch. So it turned out to be a good spot with views looking back towards the high spots we had visited.

The rain seemed to have gone and even the wind seemed light as we headed east and then south towards Burbage Bridge, with Burbage Rocks above us on our left. After crossing the road we followed the path alongside Burbage Brook, where Riley couldn't stop himself from taking a dip even though there were no ducks to chase. The path led us into Padley Gorge which is a really beautiful scenic route, following the stream all the way down to Grindleford Station. We didn't actually get to see the station, but we didn't miss anything exciting. We followed a lane for half a mile or so until a path took us over the railway, which led down to the River Derwent. We followed the riverside path for a couple of miles through some woodland and finally emerged into fields just below Hathersage. We were soon back at the car park and had an uneventful journey back to the Dysart Arms for rehydration.

It had turned out to be an excellent route, especially given the grim weather elsewhere. P.S. Apologies for slight under estimation of distance and ascent. As usual I deny any wrongdoing.

Mike A.