

Back Tor* and Ladybower

Walk Date: Friday 28th August 2026

Distance: 10.3miles Ascent: 1717 ft

Walk Time: 4hr 45

Walkers: Dave (leader), Clare, Janet, Jim, Mike & Lesley.

Departing from the pavilion at 8 a.m., and with acceptable Friday morning traffic, we thankfully found parking places in the popular A57 lay-by and were soon booted up and on way by 9.45a.m.

Walking through pleasant woodlands, taking care not to brush against the wet ferns, we soon reached open countryside. With good views of the Upper Derwent Valley available, (with alarming low water levels in the reservoirs below), and a short but stiff ascent, Winstone Lee Tor at the south end of the ridge was soon reached. Accompanied by warm sunshine and a light breeze, the next 3.5 miles, offered easy walking along a good path, with 360° views, and passing the wonderfully named millstone grit tors of Wheel Stones, Salt Cellar and Cakes of Bread. (some imagination required!). A stone flagged section of path led us to Back Tor*, where after a short scramble the summit and trig point was successfully conquered by some, whilst others were happier taking photos. (*Also known as Black Tor by some).

The path now began to head north-west, and after the final bump of Lost Lad and a brief shower, a descent towards the middle Upper Derwent Reservoir began. Now back in warm sunshine and dropping out of the wind, (and spotting dark clouds in the distance) a decision was taken by the leader to take lunch. Now evaluating wind speeds and calculating when storm clouds will arrive is clearly a difficult matter. Suffice to say, lunch was quickly abandoned in haste, waterproofs donned, and a quick descent was made into the trees. (it was the quickest I've seen some of them move!)

Heavy rain stayed with us for the next 20 minutes as we made our way down the valley to the visitor center, when a 10-minute break in the rain allowed us to have lunch part 2.

The remainder of the walk, in rain, followed a wooded path down the west side of Ladybower Reservoir, where just before reaching our cars, the sun came out!

Refreshments were later taken at the D.A. as per usual.

Thanks to all those attending. A walk of two halves perhaps!

And hopefully Mike A to report back on the performance of his new waterproofs.