

Trip Report: The Dark Peak

Date: 13th April 2013

Group: Selina (leader), Jim G, Tony, Lynn, Colin, Mike H, Lesley, Allie, and 'Slippery' Dave, Roxie

Route: Kinder Edges from Hayfield

Total Distance: 11 miles

Total Ascent: 2054 ft

Weather: Clear blue skies and sunshine to begin with, clouds thickening in afternoon, but thankfully only the briefest of showers

Time: 5 hours 57 mins

A very prompt start at the pavillion and a short detour around Stockport saw us all at the Bowden Bridge car park just outside Hayfield (film location for the BBC's 'The Village'), where we met up with Allie and Dave. It was some time since Dave had walked with us and it was thus decided that perhaps it was time to stop referring to him as 'slippery' as it was over a year since his infamous descent from Castell Dinas.

From the car park we followed the route of the mass trespassers in April, 81 years ago, up past the sheep wash at Booth Bridge and then Kinder reservoir to the foot of Williams Clough where the said trespassers clashed with gamekeepers and police. Undeterred, we embraced our right to roam and continued up the clough to Ahsop edge where we enjoyed a sunny coffee break admiring the views.

We then followed the Pennine Way along the edges to Sandy Heys and Kinder Downfall where we went slightly 'off piste' to pose for photos on the buttresses. Who will make the April 2014 Calender?

A liitle scrambling and we were back on the main path where we continued on to Kinder Low and the inevitable debate about whether or not to bag Kinder Scout, (a whole 3 metres higher than Kinder Low). Visibility was perfect, but it was still a little uncertain as to where the summit lay, and after some phaffing and muttering, the leader made the decision to continue along the edges. The slight detour we had taken lead to a little peat hopping and ensured that Dave held on to his slippery title for another year. Lunch was then taken sheltering behind some rocks where Tony demonstrated how not to unfold a map in blustery conditions.

We contined on past the junction with Jacobs ladder down to Edale, and on beneath Brown Knowl and the 'shapely' summit of South End, where there was much admiring of the newly laid York stone pavement and estimates of the cost from our National Trust membership fees, the leader silently thanking them for saving her from accusations of bog trotting. The pavement ended abruptly at the National Trust boundary

but thankfully the ground underfoot from then on was mainly dry. A brief encounter with a couple of mountain bikers on Mount Famine lead us to take their recommended scenic detour along a ridge and then back down to the car park at Hayfield.

The Quinn car stopped briefly in Hayfield to take photographs of Athur Lowe's birthplace....really Tony?...before we all met up again in the Dysart for traditional rehydration therapy.

Thanks to everyone for a great walk....

Selina