

## **Trip Report: The North Pennines**

**Date:** 29th April 2007

**Group:** Jean (leader) Deputy Leader Jim W, Jim G, Lesley, Colin, Chrissie, Chris, Rob, Sue, Rachel, George and his friend from his Everest expedition, Ian. Dogs Rosie and Roxy

**Route:** Dufton to Cauldron Snout Via High Cup Nick

**Total Distance:** Unknown

**Total Ascent:** Unknown

**Weather:** Unknown

We set off from the Nags at the unearthly hour of 7am arriving in Dufton in time for a loo stop (Good loo's - highly recommended) before starting the walk at 9.30.

There was a moment in Jim G's car when we discovered all the officers of the club were all travelling together and it was thought maybe we should be more like the Royal Family and travel separately, but we all arrived safe and sound and the moment passed.

We set off up a steady climb for about 3 miles to reach High Cup Gill. As every one with a passing knowledge of geology knows this is where the Whin Sill, which is formed of blue-grey dolerite, has provided extra resistance to glaciers and formed one of the most spectacular natural features in the UK. The leader called for a coffee break and we managed eventually to find some shelter from the wind which seemed to be blowing straight down the gulley. It was at this point Colin, recently enrolled in weight watchers, produced his carrot - boy was it a big one!

After spending some time taking in the views which on a clear day can take in every peak in the Lake District we set off along a grassy path towards the bridge over Maize Beck. Once over this bridge the wind seemed to die down and it was a pleasant walk over moorland towards Cauldron Snout waterfall, passing an extensive area of land which is out of bounds as it is used as a training ground for the army. I'm happy to report there were no signs of any activity and no sounds of gunfire! Although we had no definite proof that some training SAS soldiers were not spying on us!

After passing through the yard of an extremely remote farm we wound our way down to the waterfall, called Cauldron Snout, where the perfect lunch spot was found.

After lunch permission was requested by Jim G and Rob to visit the dam. This was duly granted by the leader, but no one else apart from these two could be bothered to look at more water, so we set off on our return journey leaving them to catch us up. On the return leg the Leader

demonstrated the act of leadership from the back, (or the sheepdog method by which it is known), and ensured we all arrived back safely at 4.30, exactly seven hours of walking as predicted by the deputy leader. Back down the motorway with most of us apart from the driver having a snooze arriving at the Dysart at 6.35pm as predicted by our driver.

Jean