

Trip Report: The White Peak

Date: 26th April 2013

Group: Mike W (leader) Selina; Ann; Amanda; Jeff; Mike-W, Roxie

Route: Lathkill Dale - Bradford Dale

Total Distance: 8.83 miles

Total Ascent: 417 ft

Weather: Blue skies with partial cloud throughout the day, brief hail shower

Time: 4 hours 10 mins

A very prompt start at the pavilion, we decided to take two cars and split the passengers evenly, girls in one and boys in the other. Heading to the Peak National Park via Congleton; Buxton and parking up at Moor Lane car park a mile or so from Youlgrave.

We started out in a North Westerly direction along the Limestone Trail, making to intersect Cales Dale. Open fields full of sheep during lambing season often prove a dilemma for dog owners. It proved no different with Roxy as a Black Faced sheep decided to give chase to poor Roxy.

Fortunately the only harm done was to Roxy's pride.

Skirting Calling Low Farm we made our way over the fields and the decent into Cales Dale. A short walk through Cales Dale had us crossing the footbridge over the River Lathkill and into Lathkill Dale proper. After an hour or so of intermittent sunshine and cloud, we decided to stop for coffee. The sun was out again, a moss covered felled tree, vistas over the Dale, what better place to have coffee. Well it was until the hail started to come down. Fortunately it did not get into full swing and lasted for no more than 30seconds or so.

Setting off again in the sunshine, walking along a very peaceful Lathkill Dale, babbling brook and sound of birds our only companions. As we made our way down the Dale brief encounters of fellow walkers making their way in the opposite direction let us know we were not alone. We passed the pillars of the former rail line crossing the Dale and eventually came upon Batemans House. Home to James Bateman, the agent for Lathkill Mines in the 1840s. Its most unusual feature is that it is built directly over a deep lead mineshaft. Ann and Amanda venture down the ladder to have a look at the mine shaft and its workings. Unfortunately the hand crank generator was not working so they could not see much once they were down there.

We continued our walk, passing under Over Haddon to our left and making our way past the weirs coming out at Conksbury Bridge. Then continuing

by the side of Lathkill River through to Alport, when we entered Bradford Dale. This, to me, is one of the best views in the Peak District and I think you will find it hard to disagree looking at Jeff's photos. As we approached the junction leading to Youlgrave we availed ourselves of a vacant bench and had lunch. Fortunately there was no repeat of the Hail and we ate our lunch in the sunshine, although the breeze did have a nip to it.

Suitable fortified we continued along Bradford Dale passing the fish ponds along the way. We spotted a few trout in the clear waters. I say "we", whenever a trout was sighted, Amanda seemed to miss out on seeing it. Honest Amanda, they were there!

After passing the ancient Sheep Dip we exited at Middleton village and made our way back to the cars.

A swift libation was taken at the Dysart on our return to Bunbury and all departed having had a good day in the Derbyshire Dales.

Mike W