

Trip Report: The White Peak**Date:** 27th August 2010**Group:** Jim G (Leader) & Mike A, Selina and Lynn**Route:** Youlgreave-Bradford Dale-Robin Hood's Stride-Harthill Moor-Youlgreave-Lower Lathkill Dale**Total Distance:** 11 miles**Total Ascent:** Unknown**Weather:** Dry and sunny**Time:** 5 hours

A major breakthrough with 50% men and no mutts! Departure from the pavilion sharp at 7.30am and the long and windy road to Youlgreave (or is it Youlgrave?)

For once it's a fine and sunny start and the walk through the village of Youlgreave leads down into Bradford Dale where we follow the River Bradford upstream passing three large fishing ponds that look distinctly weedy, probably due to the virtually non-existent flow of the river.

We pass a bridge with a Site of Meaning inscribed on the parapet, where is Tony with his vast knowledge of trivia when you need him? (*He's at work ! Ed*).

The route then crosses a field of bog foliage, which is mainly composed of giant stinging nettles, glad not to be wearing shorts. We then come across another Site of Meaning inscription on a boundary stone "Consult the Genius of the Place in all: That tells the Waters or to rise and fall" from the writings of Alexander Pope. The Leader now comes into his own as the route leads across pastures and fields with little discernable paths. We eventually pass a field of Llamas at Rock Farm, cross fields around Anthony Hill gritstone quarry, before locating a convenient bench for coffee break.

Turning up the lane we cut off through a small wood to reach Robin Hood's Stride, an impressive gritstone outcrop. A bit of bushwhacking leads us to the magnificent views from the top of Cratcliffe Rocks and after locating a large Yew tree, that we have trouble recognising, we located the Hermit's Cave at the foot of Cratcliffe Rocks. Retracing our steps we locate the Limestone Way heading back to Youlgreave, passing the impressive Harthill Moor stone circle, the tallest stone circle in the Peak District!

We have lunch at the side of the River Bradford in Youlgreave, basking in the warm sunshine.

The second part of the walk takes us north across fields to Meadow Place Grange and then down to join the River Lathkill near Over Haddon. We

then walk through the very peaceful and picturesque Lower Lathkill Dale, past the Bubbling Springs (where the river emerges from underground) and weirs built for the benefit of the fly fishing interests of the Duke of Rutland. We cross over Conksbury Bridge, admiring the views and Rainbow Trout below and stroll down to Alport where we rejoin the River Bradford and the path back to Youlgreave.

An uneventful drive back to Bunbury and a break with tradition as the Leader opts for rehydration at the Yew Tree to sample the delights of the Beer Festival

Jim G