

Trip Report: Stanage Edge**Date:** 28th February 2014**Group:** Jeff (Leader), Jim G, Lynn, Lesley, Mike A, Mike H, Steve, Sarah, John, Heather, Susan, Ann, Colin (and Roxie), Frank, Chrissie, Sandra, Graham, Bob !**Route:** Hathersage, Bamford Edge, Stanage Edge, Higgarr Tor**Total Distance:** 10.8 miles**Total Ascent:** 1800 ft**Weather:** Unknown

What a turnout - 18 for a Friday walk, so the Classic Walk series is drawing the crowds. The strength of the field meant the leader had to take drastic steps and so everyone was preallocated by email to one of the four cars at the Pavilion start. Surprisingly this worked and everyone trooped to their vehicles and boarded for a prompt start with no audible dissent. Unfortunately things unravelled rapidly as Colin's car failed to make it out of Bunbury and lost power on the first hill. Fortunately Colin was able to cajole the car back to Wyche Lane and swap into Mike and Lesley's car for the trip to Hathersage.!!

This meant a late start to the walk from the car park at Hathersage, not helped by the 200 yard dash required to get to the public toilets from the car park. However, traffic had been reasonable so we got away from the car park about 10.30 a.m. and headed off through some rather neat allotments and climbed up towards Bamford Edge through farmland and then traversing through woodland. The weather was chilly with low cloud and mist but there was a view of Ladybower reservoir from the end of Bamford Edge and this was the spot chosen for morning coffee, or in some cases an early lunch. !!

After coffee we set off from Bamford Edge almost due East on a bushwhack across Bamford Moor open access land. This was reasonably dry underfoot and as we went across the weather improved dramatically and the sun put in an appearance lighting up a broad expanse of moorland with Stanage Edge in the distance and Whin Hill behind. Roxie seemed to enjoy this bit in particular and put up a good few grouse for our entertainment.

Steering left hand down a bit we aimed for and climbed Stanage Edge through a gap in the face and walked a short distance before a lunch mutiny occurred at 1.30 p.m. - at a spot admittedly equipped with excellent tiered rocks for seating, and a good view across the Hope Valley. This was such a nice spot and the weather so good that we could have stayed longer, but being a BUMS Classic we soon pressed on. !!

Staying on Stanage Edge we came to the second trig point where the leader offered a two mile or a four mile option for getting back to the car park at Hathersage. This concept of choice was not received well in all quarters and so the leader had to draw on years of local government experience and impose a three mile compromise version with only token consultation. This took us over Higgarr Tor with fine views of Burbage Rocks off to our left, before descending from the Tor for a further short off piste section across in front of Carl Wark, with its fortified top thought to be either built up in the iron age or late Roman/early dark ages. !!

The last part of the walk descended with barely a hint of tarmac walking to one of the highlights of the day - Little John's convincingly long grave in Hathersage Churchyard, yes the Little John of Robin Hood fame. According to the Tourist Board it is certain that "a very tall man is buried there, for the grave was opened in 1782 and the skeleton of a man about 7 feet tall was discovered. For many years an ancient longbow and cap hung in the church, but these were removed in the early 19th century."!! Despite some cynical grumbling about the authenticity and inclusion of this in the day's itinerary, and the motives of the Tourist Authority, we descended back to the car park and headed off to successfully dodge the Friday traffic. Effective rehydration at the Yew Tree rounded off a very enjoyable walk in, at last, some great weather!!

Jeff