

Trip Report: The Longendale Edges

Date: 11th July 2004

Group: Jim Grant (leader) Jim Walker, Dave Cadman

Route: Crowden Youth Hostel, Shining Clough Rocks, Lawrence Edge, Rollick Stones, Clough Edge, Bramah Edge, Rhodeswood Reservoir Dam, Tintwistle Knarr Quarry, Millstone Rocks, Lad's Leap, Crowden Youth Hostel

Total Distance: 12.5 miles

Total Ascent: 1952 ft

Weather: Overcast then bright.

Time: 6 hours

WHAT REALLY HAPPENED

The walk starts at the Crowden Youth Hostel on the A 628 at the foot of the Woodhead Pass, where there is parking for 20 cars.

A short flog up the road leads to St. James' Church which is all that remains of the villages flooded to create Woodhead reservoir (the largest expanse of artificial water in the world between 1847 and 1870) before crossing the Woodhead Dam. The path here is a bit confusing and we head off in the wrong direction, realize our error and then climb over a wall in an attempt to get back on track. We are confronted by Lady Chatterley and Roger the Clay Pigeon Shooting Man who inform us we are trespassing, her brother is a Barrister and they have nothing but trouble with walkers etc. etc; we beat a hasty retreat back over the wall and eventually get back on the right track heading for Stable Clough.

Following an old quarry track past some shooting butts we arrive at the top of Shining Clough rocks, great views across to Black Hill and Laddow Rocks.

The path is indistinct in places but follows the Lawrence Edge to Rollick Stones, our solitude only broken by the traffic noise from the A 628 and the planes going into Manchester Airport! The route now is basically bush whacking straight across the pathless heather moor to cross Torside Clough where we join the Pennine Way. We follow this until it drops away at Reaps Bent where we continue by following a fence along Bramah Edge. Passing below Peak Naze we drop down to the B 6105 near the Devil's Elbow. Then passing under the old Railway underpass we cross Rhodeswood Dam where we stop for lunch beside the aqueduct. We continue up the track to cross the A 628 next to an old turnstile climbing up an old quarry track that zig zags up the hillside to the disused Tintwistle Knarr Quarry. Continuing along a fine alpine path we head up

Black Gutter towards a post on the skyline, of which there are several!
We continue along the edge to Millstone Rocks, past Lad's Leap, cross the
Pennine Way and descend back to the Car Park at Crowden.
Back in the Dysart for the traditional rehydration therapy.

Jim G