

Trip Report: Derbyshire Dales

Date: 20th March 2010

Group: Colin (leader), Ian (deputy leader), Lyn, Mike, Lesley, Tony, Lynn, Caryle, Graham (Sutton), Neil, Ann, Tina, Selina and Chrissie, Roxie, Molly and Tilly

Route: Robin Hoods Stride and Stanton Moor

Total Distance: 12.1 miles

Total Ascent: 1841 ft

Weather: Wet!

Time: 6 hours

Good turn out, shame about the weather, as we picked just about the only rainy day in past few weeks.

Three cars were required to transport the masses with Lyn and Ian stepping up to plate to taxi the troops to rainy Derbyshire, where we met Selina who is temporarily located in Derbyshire pending some house building.

The walk itself is a combination of a couple of Bomber Harris's "Walks in Ancient Peak District" starting from a lay-by on the B5056, that runs from Grangemill to Haddon Hall.

There was a slight delay getting started on the walk as Ian, having researched how to convert a grid ref to a postcode, was let down by his sat nav, that clearly took him a strange route as he arrived a good 10 mins after rest of us, and a good half hour going home, which cut into drinking time. (By the way the leader already knew how to derive postcode from grid ref and I advise you to go to "streetmap.co.uk" enter grid ref and you will find an option to view nearest post code or coordinates if you prefer.

Happily Ian's GPS was more useful and took some pressure off the leader as we occasionally ventured off the carefully planned route.

The walk starts on limestone way and very quickly we came to Robin Hoods Stride, a very striking rocky tor often mistaken as a house from afar as it has two clear "towers".

A very short scramble up to the top was called for, not least that this was only justification for the "M" in BUMS on this walk at least, as the walk is essentially flat!

We were faced with a decision whether to climb one of the towers, as clearly getting down was going to be tough and only Tony made the effort, quickly giving up as his audience awaited his inevitable demise.

Following the Limestone Way, we then dropped down to Youlgreave, following the river along Bradford Dale to Alport, to find this is where Selina walks her dog, so with some local knowledge we left the planned route in Alport (deliberately) to go past the house where D.H. Lawrence's *Virgin and the Gypsy* was filmed, before we stopped for a pleasant but wet coffee stop.

The route then took us past the entrance to Haddon Hall, before making our way back to Rowsley a little earlier than planned, due to Ian's GPS winning over Mike's compass bearing (lesson learned), as opposed to any failings in leader's map reading of course.

We stopped for lunch just before Rowsley on a less than picturesque disused railway before heading to Stanton Moor where another slight blip occurred as we lost altitude when path disappeared before finding ourselves at Stanton in the Peak following an alternative path.

On reaching the open land of Stanton Moor, there is a maze of paths so with time getting on we stuck to main route before reaching the Nine Ladies of Stanton Moor, a stone circle where nine BUMS perched on a nine standing stones for a photo opportunity.

On we travelled where the landscape changed dramatically whereby you could be mistaken for thinking you were walking the Sandstone trail. (Now that would have pleased Big Jim G!).

Back down to Birchover a very quiet village where there were even signs to remind townies that the locals need quiet! Past some peacocks playing on some disused buses in a barn, past some alpacas (that look like llamas), then past the Druids Inn, built in 1607, and named after the druids who practised their magic amidst Rowter Rocks, before heading back to the car.

A fine walk for a mucky day!

Colin

PS: By majority rule, we took the rather iconoclastic BUMS trip decision to hold dehydration therapy in Nags, just in time to see the Jocks put the Paddys to the sword at the egg chasing. Now that's not something you will see every day!