

Trip Report: The Yorkshire Dales

Date: 17th October 2004

Group: Colin (leader!) Jim G, Jim W, Tony, Claudia, Mike A (returns!)

Route: Outhgill village, High Seat, Archy Styrigg, (Hugh Seat), (Little Fell). Hell Gill force (waterfall), Outhgill village

Total Distance: 9.5 miles

Total Ascent: 1800 ft

Weather: Cloud and Rain

Time: 5 hours 30 mins

WHAT REALLY HAPPENED

The walk starts at Outhgill village on the B6259 5 miles south of Kirkby Stephen. Roadside Parking (eventually). Everyone, piled (appreciatively) into Tony's people carrier with "leader" stuck at the very back in the "naughty child" seat.

After considering weather forecast on journey, we concluded it was (at best) going to be clear by the time we were heading back down the M6 mid afternoon...OK the leader thought it might be OK by midday! Despite the hope and expectation, even mid hike, the weather never improved.

The route is alongside the Settle to Carlisle railway and also sees the rise of some major rivers including the Eden.

After careful inspection of the Jew Stone (questions to Tony on this), we headed up some familiar territory to the last "Howgills Flog", namely, very steep, grassy ascent which Claudia frankly was not impressed with, although when she was close to losing her sense of humour (and trust) in the leader. I reminded her that total ascent was only 1800 feet and almost all of it was first ascent to High Seat.

Actually this was not, almost all of the ascent, but ALL of the ascent, as the leader managed to get us lost (with aid of weather, my gang breaking my concentration by talking to me and my duty to the mountaineers better halves to get them home on time this time!!)

We reached top of High Seat, following a very indistinct trail with three Cairns at top and we found them all (I think) but from here we should have had Panoramic Views in all directions with Mickle Fell to North and Ingleborough to the South, but we couldn't see our hand in front of our face!! Poor reward for our efforts scrambling up the grassy banks.

The leader was of course made to feel guilty about the weather!!

We then marched on a fairly distinct path along the ridge to Archy Styrigg with a big cairn marking the spot.

From here it was all downhill although in places it should have been uphill!!

OK we got lost.

We followed a path (not on the OS map!!) and finally realize we had missed Hugh Seat, our next peak The leader (eventually) called for the GPS, Jim (reluctantly) agreed and we found we had definitely bypassed Hugh Seat and we also were "miles" past the "diversion" to Little Fell, out final peak.

We had in essence taken a short cut home, which was great for those of us who wished to avoid being beaten by our wives but not so good for the purists who missed out on the summits we were aiming for!

We compromised by diverting to have lunch at a lovely waterfall, Hell Gill falls, before braving the inclement weather to head back to Outhgill village and eventually the Dysart without too much further problem (if you ignore the odd extremely boggy (non) path through fields, All in all a good day out, but one which we should return to in better weather, (with a different leader some might say!)

Colin