

**Trip Report: The Peak District**

**Date:** 23rd September 2007

**Group:** Colin Christie (leader), Mike Arrowsmith, Selina Green, Caryle Sinnott, Ian Langford, Richard Calder, Jim and Jean Walker, Roxie the dog and the "unknown BUM" for latter part of walk

**Route:** Baslow Edge - Curbar Edge - Froggatt Edge - White Edge - Birchen Edge - Chatsworth Edge

**Total Distance:** 12.3 miles

**Total Ascent:** 1950 ft

**Weather:** Unknown

**Time:** 6 hours

The trip was suggested by Bob Harris, as it coincided with part of one of his walks in his "Ancient walking in the Peak District" book. It was touted as very easy walking with clear paths which one cannot get lost on, with the highlight the "not to be missed" Gardoms Edge. Needless to say, we got lost and finished up missing Gardoms Edge altogether, before finding ourselves with an unexpected but pleasant visit to the grounds of Chatsworth Park.

All of this was however highly enjoyable. Richard and Selina did the honours with the driving, the weather was good, no major climbing but the views were fantastic.

The walk started in Baslow, home of Michael Vaughan of England cricket fame and close to Chatsworth House. It included six "Edges".and is a popular place for climbers.

As we climbed out of Baslow the first point of interest, apart from some Highland cattle was Wellington Monument. The leader was ridiculed for lack of background reading as to why such a monument was situated in Baslow and Bobs book was no help. I can now reveal it was erected by a local called Dr Wrench, who as an army man, felt the need to counterbalance the memorial dedicated to Admiral Nelson on nearby Birchen Edge (see later)

We then worked our way along Curbar Edge, then Froggatt Edge where there was some excellent views and photo opportunities for the team to show off on the rocks.

On we marched with some very easy walking along the ridge until we looped back along White Edge marred only by a few muddy places where Ian's new boots got splashed, much to his consternation. We stopped briefly at the Trig point (in traditional manner) before descending and crossing back across the A621. We then headed to Gardoms Edge for

lunch. However a belated look at the map showed we were in fact making the easy climb up to Birchen Edge!

Birchen Edge is a popular place for climbing and bouldering and we picked one of the "three ships" as resting place for lunch. These rocks are situated next to the Nelson Monument (which was erected in 1810 to honour Nelson and the Battle of Trafalgar) and each one has the name of a ship engraved onto it (HMS Victory, Defiance and Royal Sovereign). After descending to the A619 to the Robin Hood pub we quickly crossed the road to take a short climb up to Chatsworth edge where Baslow could be clearly seen, but unfortunately our route was taking us away from Baslow towards Chatsworth House! A change of course was called for, but no path was available, nor particularly obvious, so the leader chose to follow the "unknown BUM". This was a guy enjoying a pleasant day out unaware that he may one day have a tomb built in his name! - "The tomb of the unknown BUM" as the leaders plan proved a winning strategy as the unknown BUM unwittingly lead us back to our car! What a hero! He even arranged for us to view the Chatsworth stags and some mad hares running riot in front of us.

We left our friend as we spotted the famous Canon kissing gate which took us back to the car with no further alarms and back to Dysart for usual rehydration..

A fine day out!

Colin