

**Trip Report:** Eden Valley

**Date:** 12<sup>th</sup> November 2022

**Group:** Jim G (leader & driver) Sarah, Steve, Bob

**Route:** Hartley Fell & Nine Standards Rigg

**Total Distance:** 9.3 miles

**Total Ascent:** 1806 ft

This appears to be the least popular walk of 2022. The Leader chose a different area to visit, but I suspect that the advertised 2 hour drive each way may have put off some of the lesser dedicated Bums or maybe it was the 7.30am departure time ?

This was also the biggest outing yet for my new Tesla, would range anxiety play a part? more of that later. We achieve the early start and have a good uneventful drive to the start, with free parking, in the middle of the lovely town of Kirkby Stephen.

Our route follows the Coast to Coast National Trail, which continues on over the summit of Nine Standards Rigg, and down into Swaledale, we are doing an out and back from Kirkby Stephen.

The route goes through the middle of town before crossing the River Eden over Frank's Bridge ( no relation of Frank McHale) through the hamlet of Hartley before crossing Hartley Beck. There is a fair bit of tarmac (Mike H please note) rising up and past Hartley Quarry, which is a surprisingly big hole in the ground. We continue on to reach the end of the road past the crags of Long Rigg and onto Hartley Fell following a broad track before turning off left and then crossing Faraday Gill, which was named after the son of a local family, the famous Michael Faraday. We admire some of the geological formations along the way, merely speculating on what they are, we are sadly without Professor Styles who, I am sure, could have educated us all.

The path is very wet and boggy in places and Bob shows us how not to walk the plank as he has a Tom & Jerry moment! He walks along a plank, over a boggy stretch, stands on the end, the plank flips up (nearly hitting him in the face) both feet plunge into a water hole, which fills up both his boots, squelchy feet for the rest of the walk. He receives the normal amount of sympathy, after we have stopped pissing ourselves laughing.

We continue on our way upwards to arrive at the Pennine Watershed and the famous Nine Standards Rigg, surely one of the strangest mountain top sights and probably unique in the British Isles. These nine monoliths stand on the former county boundary between Westmorland and the North Riding of Yorkshire. Nobody really knows their origins but recent research shows their existence in 1507 and possibly much earlier. The true summit is a trig point a little further on across another boggy swamp. This is wild country and feels very remote, with boggy moorland in all directions, it is cold and claggy so we beat a hasty retreat retracing our steps to the Nine Standards before heading off down Faraday Gill and finding a sheltered lunch stop.

Lunch taken we continue back down to Kirkby Stephen in warm sunshine.

The Tesla performed very well but the Satnav was estimating only 3% battery left on arrival home, this is range anxiety! However this is constantly updated on route and steadily improved to 10% by the time we reached the A49 turn off. The range anxiety did extend to the passengers as well, obvs if you reduce weight this will increase the range, they were not so keen on getting dumped before arrival at the Pavilion, but this proved unnecessary. In fact on arrival at the Dysart I still had 59 miles left. I guess you need a different mindset with an electric car, as I would never let my smoky old Golf get so low on juice.

We arrive at the Dysart for rehydration, shock horror Colin is a no show (but with good Grandad carer reasons) Tony doesn't turn up at all (because Bob forgot to invite him). A good day out in surprisingly good weather for mid-November

Jim G