

Trip Report 13 November 2021

Route	Goyt Valley and Shining Tor from Derbyshire Bridge
Distance	11 miles with 2500ft ascent
Squad	Selina, Mike W, Della, Richard, Sarah, Steve, Ali (+ Delilah), Jim, Ian, Mike H, Tony, Ann, Neil (Leader)

An early departure time of 7.30am seemed appropriate prior to the walk, but in hindsight the leader may have been a tad too enthusiastic, a point he was reminded of many times during the day!

All, bar Ali and Delilah, arrived at Derbyshire Bridge for 9am, but the group was fully formed by the time we reached Errwood Reservoir.

The walk from Derbyshire Bridge ascended initially towards Berry Clough, before descending through the Clough toward the Goyt Valley. The path crossed a footbridge over the fast flowing River Goyt and then followed the river as it entered into Errwood Reservoir, where we were joined by Ali and Delilah. The autumnal colours along the riverbank were wonderful.

The coffee stop was taken at the ruin of Errwood Hall. The Hall had been built around 1843 by the Grimshawe family, and for a time had actually been used as a youth hostel. Unfortunately, the land was compulsorily purchased in 1934 to create the twin reservoirs of Fernilee and Errwood.

After the brief stop, the route ascended sharply toward Foxlow Edge, and with the lifting of the early morning clag, the ridge afforded some lovely views across to the North Peaks. The squad made its way across the ridge, where Delilah found every opportunity to jump into the muddy water pools.

The ridge descended for a short while before rising again to Pym Chair and then again up towards Cats Tor. With the early morning mist replaced with clear skies, there were some lovely views west towards White Nancy and to the south the Cheshire "Matterhorn" was in full view.

Lunch was taken at Cats Tor at around 11.40, which the leader surmised may have been one of the more early lunch stops that the BUMS had experienced. After lunch, a quick final push was made up the path to Shining Tor (559 m). The path then descended gradually into Stake and Deep Clough, and with the recent rain, everyone's walking boots were thoroughly tested. The path then headed into the forest, once home of the Goyt Stone Quarry, before exiting back to Goyt's Clough. The squad split at this point with Ali and Delilah heading back to Errwood Reservoir and the remaining squad ascending back up Berry Clough and to the car park (2.30 pm).

Hydration was taken later at the Dysart.

My thanks to Ian and Jim for driving and to the whole squad for their good humour in making it a most enjoyable day, which was helped as ever by some lovely Autumn weather.

Neil