

Trip Report – Wharfedale 11/8/2018

Group – Lesley, Sarah, Steve, Mike A, Tony, Dave, Gerry, Neil, Colin, Mike H (leader)

Distance – 9.8 miles, 1850 ft ascent

The route followed was a plan B as the midweek weather forecast was for heavy rain and strong winds in South Cumbria, so the original plan to do the Kentmere Horseshoe was abandoned. This proved to be rather popular as we gained 4 extra walkers when the email went out with the revised route in Wharfedale – was this the attractions of God’s County or lower level walks being the preferred choice? It was also good to have Mike A along – his first bums walk with his new knee.

Route finding from the start was simply a matter of getting to the river and following it for a few miles. Even though the water level in the river was low due to the prolonged dry spell, Linton Falls was still an interesting spectacle. Further along the river we passed Ghaistrill’s Strid, with no-one daring to stride across it.

After short distance, we followed a path away from the river into Grass Wood Nature Reserve. Just after hearing cries for a coffee stop we came across four logs neatly set out – just the place for a cuppa. Unfortunately, this was where Lesley probably dropped her reading glasses – an expensive cup of coffee! Suitably refreshed, we continued along the edge of Bastow Wood to reach a path that would take us into the village of Conistone. We were now in typical Dales countryside with the Wharfe below us and Kilnsey Crag ahead of us.

From the village centre, we followed the path into Conistone Dib. Entering the Dib there is a stepped rock formation where there was once a waterfall. This was a photo call not to be missed. The Dib is a dramatic limestone narrow gorge that was probably formed as a glacial melt water channel. Water in the Dib has long since gone and it is now a dry walk along the gorge. The force of the Wharfedale glacier moving down the valley also formed Kilnsey Crag. The final and narrowest part of the gorge involved a very short hands-on scramble to reach open grassland again.

Lunch was taken as we reached the top of the gorge. Colin’s new rucksack was being admired as we munched our way through lunch with various comments and questions about its features. Pointing to the rear loop “what’s this for?” “That’s for your ice axe”. “And what’s this for?”, pointing to a much smaller loop. “That’s a zip, you plonker”. Highly technical detail.

The rest of the route was along the clear Dales Way path back to Grassington. Arriving in the village, main street was packed with tourists as usual, and opportunity the buy Real Yorkshire ice cream. A two-hour drive with no hold ups and we were back in the Dysart by 4.30.