

## Trip Report – Crummack Dale 14/9/19

Distance: 10.1 miles

Ascent: 1600 ft

### Group:

Les and Mike

Steve and Sarah

Ali and Dave

Lynn and Tony (and Riley)

Mike H (leader)

The planned route was rather unusual for a Saturday walk as there was no summit to aim for and it was a relatively flat walk (protecting the leader's dodgy knees) with the aim of exploring the fascinating limestone features of the area that lies between Ingleborough and Pen-y-ghent

As most of the group were meeting up at Clapham car park, only one car travelled up the M6 from Bunbury. Please note that this was a very dry, mainly sunny walk unlike the very wet walks with which this leader is associated.

After meeting up in a very quiet Clapham village, we negotiated the dark tunnels near Ingleborough Hall and set off along the appropriately named Long Lane which runs between Clapham Beck and Thwaite Scars. On reaching Long Scar we got great views across to Ingleborough and Pen-y-Ghent in the morning sunshine. The path then followed the edge of Moughton Scars which is an area where layers of whetstone lie completely flat creating a very unusual sight. Despite the dry conditions, Riley managed to find the only smelly bog in which to run around. We then followed the path around the Scars and descended into Crummack Dale, stopping for lunch at Austwick Beck head. Here the beck was merely a trickle but with a few hundred metres we crossed over a footbridge with the beck below in full flow due to the abundance of springs in the area.

The route took us through a series of fields to reach Nappa Scars and the famous Norber Erratics. After a very detailed discussion on the meaning of Erratic Rocks and when they become non-erratic, we followed a path from Nappa to Robin Proctor Scar (named after a local farmer who met a sad end riding home worse for wear after Friday Night Drinks!). This area is where the best Erratics can be found. The erratic sandstone boulders dated some 430 million years old cover the area. The dark sandstone sits on top of light-coloured limestone having been lifted up by glacial shift.

The last stage of the route was along Thwaites Lane which leads back to the dark tunnels near Clapham. The very quiet village of Clapham which we left early morning had been transformed in our absence with cars parked everywhere with a full car park. As usual the fells were empty of people and the local village was crowded.

With our geology field trip finished three of us headed back for rehydration in the sunny garden of the Dysart.

Mike H