

Members Favourite Walks – contributed by Geoff Wilkinson

A Round of Crummackdale, Yorkshire

Crummackdale, one of the lesser known and frequented of the Yorkshire Dales, nestles in the heart of the Limestone district amongst Yorkshire's famous Three Peaks. Its many delights include acres of limestone pavements and the legendary Norber Erratic Boulders.

The walk begins in the village of Austwick, the "capital" of Crummackdale. The village boasts a picturesque green, a magnificent pub (The Game Cock Inn) and a delightful little campsite (Woodend Farm). Leaving Austwick we head across the fields down an ancient green lane towards Oxenber Hill. Oxenber is a gentle climb but presents some magnificent views back to Austwick.



Austwick Village from Oxenber Hill



Oxenber – Limestone Pavement

The summit of Oxenber offers a wide expanse of pristine limestone pavement and a maze of tracks. In late spring its flanks are a mass of bluebells. Nestling below the hill is the hamlet of Feizor where it's easy to believe you've stepped straight back into the 18th century. Perhaps it's a bit soon, but a coffee stop at Elaine's Tearoom is hard to resist.

The descent of Oxenber offers distant views of Pen-y-ghent, Yorkshire's "third" peak. Crossing more fields, more stiles and more streams, we head for the picturesque hamlet of Wharfe. Walking the unmade byways of the village it now seems we've regressed by another century.



Pen-y-ghent from Oxenber



Dry Waterfall – Studrigg Scar

Leaving Wharfe we climb again, gently, below White Stone Wood, heading for the conspicuous dry waterfall on the edge of Studrigg Scar. Although it looks impassable, a path navigates the scree run on the left and leads us via a ladder style to the plateau of Moughton.

Murvi Lovers Club

On a clear day the panoramic views from Moughton summit are unsurpassed. Looking south towards Pendle Hill in the far distance to the nearer tops of all of Yorkshire's Three Peaks you will be delighted to pause up here for lunch. It can be quite breezy so you here's where your windproofs come in handy. Ancient grouse butts offer some convenient shelter.



Pen-y-ghent from Moughton



Inglebrough from Theives Moss

Descending gradually we aim for the top of the cliffs known as Moughton Scars and skirt round the edge of the intriguingly named Thieves Moss and its vast expanse of limestone pavement. A short climb brings us to Sulber Gate where we can pause again for a coffee stop to take in the splendid 'sea-bed' of Thieves Moss and look back over to Moughton Top.

The short level turf top from Sulber Gate to Norber provides the opportunity to stride out. All downhill then, but no less interesting for that, through the geologically famous Norber Erratics. These great blocks of millstone grit were ripped from the cliffs higher up the valley during the ice age and deposited on top of the limestone when the glaciers melted 15,000 years ago.



Norber Erratic



Game Cock Inn, Austwick

It's then a pleasant downward stroll to Austwick Townhead back into the sleepy village and maybe a pint in the Game Cock?

If anyone's interested in doing this walk, Geoff & Carol would be delighted to accompany them. Please contact Geoff geoffwilko@googlemail.com to make arrangements.

For local campsite see: <http://www.woodendcampsite.co.uk/>

If you have a favourite walk please send details into me jess@roadum.org.uk with 'Murvi Newsletter Item' in the subject box.