

Fell Walking Group Report – June 2022 by Richard Acland

Six members set off from the Hanging Shaw car park on 22 June for an excursion up onto the northern boundary between Teesdale and Weardale. The walk started with a 1000 ft climb, steady but not steep, up the fellside past High Hurth caves, pausing at the old quarry at Church Bowers with its distinctive triple cairns. From then on the walk was across open country, without paths, first of all reaching the top of Fendrith Hill at about 2,100ft. The views back into Teesdale were dramatic, over Cronkley Fell and towards the Great Fells.

The journey continued over a succession of energy sapping peat hags, for a distance of about two miles, via the next summit known as Chapelfell Top. The lunch stop was on the upper slopes of the Langdon Beck valley, just above the road crossing at Harthope Head. From Harthope we skirted the edge of a sandstone quarry before descending, again cross country, towards Langdon Beck.

The final section was through farms in the Under Hurth area before returning to Hanging Shaw. Here there were some very attractive wild flower meadows which contrasted dramatically with the desolation of the higher land traversed earlier.

The distance was clocked at 9.5 miles and the journey time was about 5 hours, with 1,400 ft of climbing in total.

It is most unlikely that this will go down as one of the group's all-time favourite walks, and one or two members indicated definitively that they would not be returning to the watershed anytime soon. All agreed though that the walk had been very different to normal and therefore for one reason or another would be a memorable experience and conducted in high spirits.