

4 - 6 MILE WALKING GROUP

Tuesday 10 October

Report by Patrick Neill

The 4 - 6 mile walkers met at the fountain in Middleton in Teesdale for a 6 mile circular walk around Hudeshope with clear weather affording fine views.

For the intrepid 14 of us, we set off up the hill turning left onto the single track Beck Road following the Hudeshope Beck through the woodland until the valley starts to narrow to a gorge ahead. At this point, we turned left following the steps up a steep hill taking us out of the woodland and into fields above the tree line. Here we had spectacular views of Hudeshope Valley whilst we got our breath back, before following the path across several fields to Club Gill Farm - again there were fabulous views looking back over Teesdale and Kirkcarrion. It was at this point we met a person walking her dog with a map; as she was uncertain of the way, she joined the group so 14 started and 15 finished!

We then proceeded to Coldberry Mine, which was in use to about 1950, for a much earned coffee break. It was disappointing to see that several windows and door had been vandalised. Having recovered from our exertions to the highest part of the walk at 1283 feet we zigzagged down to the road and took the signed footpath to the right. Given all the recent rain, crossing several becks might have been problematic, but fortunately the couple of dry days made them much easier to negotiate. We then followed an easy grass track passing abandoned mineworking buildings and spoil heaps, across several fields, and taking the footpath down into woodland high above the beck, passing Skears Quarry and Parker's Lime Kilns, as we joined Beck Road.

We then followed the road towards Middleton passing Horseshoe Falls in full spate after the heavy rain; here we were entertained by some youngsters water canyoning. From there we crossed a green metal bridge to complete the walk back to the starting point.



