

7-9 miles walks group

Walk report for Wednesday 21 September Baldersdale valley

Fifteen of us collected together at Hury Reservoir. The day was dry, bright and sunny, sandwiched between days of heavy rain. The walk, led by Nicky Grace, promised “an exhilarating walk around the Baldersdale valley with outstanding views”. We walked along the north side of Hury and Blackton reservoirs. We passed a few anglers and ducks, and waited for the sheep to cross a narrow bridge. By the bird hide at Blackton we followed the Pennine Way to Hannah’s meadow and enjoyed our coffee by the interpretation barn. We then reached our third reservoir for a bracing walk across Balderhead dam. We were rewarded by fine views of Baldersdale, a glimpse of the bridge which marks the mid-way point of the Pennine Way and a view of our lunch-stop target, Goldsborough.



At Blackton Grange, one of our number asked the contractors about the building works and learnt that the place is to become a wedding venue. We followed the Bowes loop on the Pennine Way until reaching the road and the way up to Goldsborough. In cloudier and cooler conditions we hunkered down amongst the gritstone rocks to enjoy the views and well earned lunch. We then descended gradually on the well marked quad bike track to West Briscoe Farm and our car park. A debate on the length of the walk ensued – the walks book said 7.5 miles but the consensus was that we had gone the extra mile!

October walk

On Wednesday October 19 our walk will be led by Pete. This is the walk postponed from earlier in the year. The 7.5 mile walk starts at Broom Park and includes the old Deerness Railway, Ushaw college and the old Lanchester railway. Contact Nicky Grace nickygrace729@gmail.com if you are interested.

November walk

Our November walk will be led by Margaret in the Richmond Area on Wednesday 16 November. The walk of c 7 miles will go through the golf course, then past Aske Hall, down to Gillingwood Hall then back via Coalsgarth. Contact Nicky Grace for details.