

7-9 Mile Walking Group. May report by Janet Bayles

On a beautiful, clear, sunny, warm spring day 12 of us met at Marske near Richmond for a 7 mile walk. Following footpaths and old tracks the walk took us through woodland, pastures and across moorland to the lead mining area of the Marske Valley - a classic example of glacial meltwater channel resulting from the Stainmore Glacier. To the north the rugged beauty of the area was dominated by the limestone cliffs of Clints Scar.



After a steady moorland climb towards the highest point of the walk a brief stop in the sunshine for a cuppa was most welcome.

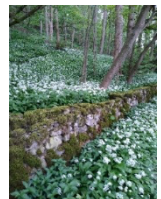
Having already enjoyed our stop in the sun the group later avoided the temptation to cross Helwith Bridge to the farm café and continued walking to then stop a while and watch the antics of the stub nosed pigs (possibly the middle white breed) in a field adjacent to the farm.

Making our way along the Marske valley a significant landslide and numerous potholes/rabbit holes needed to be carefully negotiated. There was an abundance of yellow primroses clinging to the valley sides and of particular interest were the ruins of old mining buildings - a reminder of industrial activity in the area.

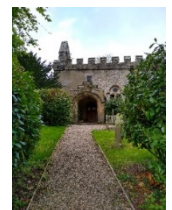


Lead mining was not as extensive here as in Arkengarthdale and Gunnerside but both mining and smelting took place around Marske. A lunch stop in the valley provided another welcome break.

Before long we were descending through Clints Wood, awash with wild garlic, towards Marske. On the approach to Marske we got a glimpse, through the trees, of Marske Hall and the obelisk. Marske was an estate village, farmers being tenants of Marske Hall. Matthew Hutton (the then Archbishop of York) bought the estate in 1597. The obelisk is his burial place.



At the end of the walk, we passed by St Edmunds Church. The church was connected to the peregrination (the wanderings) of St Cuthbert whose bones rested in Marske for a time before finally being put to rest in Durham Cathedral. Slow worms (legless lizards) are regularly seen in and around Marske and we were fortunate to spot one at the church gate.



Many thanks to Kathleen for leading, in great company, a very varied and thoroughly enjoyable walk.

Forthcoming walks

The next walk will be on Wednesday 21 June. Led by Peter this will be a 7.5 miles walk in Arkengarthdale. The walk is from near the Stang bridge, via Eskeleth to Whaw, Low Faggergill, High Faggergill and back. It includes the lovely Arkle Beck, a couple of hill farms and some open moorland. There is limited parking so car sharing would be a great idea. Please let nickygrace729@gmail.com if you would like to come along

The walk on 19 July will be led from Nicky and the current plan is to start from Middleton in Teesdale and walk to Monks moor via Hudeshope, a 7.5mile walk. Let nickygrace729@gmail.com know if you are interested.