

7 – 9 miles walking group

July walk report by Nicky Grace

Seventeen of us gathered at the fountain at Middleton in Teesdale for a varied 8 mile walk taking us up to Monk's moor and returning through Hudeshope valley. Leaving the road just by the last house out of Middleton on the Eggleston road, we started ascending through fields. The way was steep but the sun shone and the views across to (and above) Kirkcarrion were excellent. Our coffee stop west of Snaigill signalled the end of the sunshine. Traversing the edge of Brown Dodd we gained views across Grassholme and to the west – and black clouds. We kept near to the walls, often walking single file on sheep tracks. The young curlew and grouse seen on the recce were no longer in evidence – possibly put off by the thud of 34 feet or more probably having left the nesting grounds. As we crossed the stile on the edge of Monk's moor the rain started and it continued the entire time we walked on this open access land. The top of Monk's moor at 565m, with its striking but not very useful shelter received little attention as the rain meant we kept our heads down. We descended to cross the Moor and when we reached the gate the rain had stopped and we could admire the views to Coldberry Gutter and beyond. A variety of styles were adopted to get over the locked gate and within minutes we were enjoying our lunch by a shooters' hut.



From there it was downhill all the way to reach Hudeshope. In sunshine we returned, at different paces, through the woods to the middle of Teesdale. This was a very varied walk with woodland, riverside, pasture land and open moor with some great scenery.

The next walk will be led by Nicky Grace on Wednesday 16 August. The 7.5 mile walk will start at Copley and includes the River Gaunless, Arn Gill, views of the Langley Viaduct and a stretch of the Steel Road. If you would like to come along please contact nickygrace729@gmail.com

The walk on September 20 will be in the area of Muker. If you are interested in coming please contact Phil Clarke philclarke51@outlook.com