

CLAPHAM "B" WALK 8TH NOVEMBER 2014-12-05
9.1/2MLS. 1600ft

The weather forecast was bad, rain, rain and more rain. It was, however, dry when we set out at about 10.30.am from the village of Clapham in the Yorkshire Dales. The route was along the doubled walled Thwaite Lane, passing first under two tunnels, built by one of the past local gentry, so that he would not see the village workers passing along the lane from his dwelling. From the lane we had good views of Robin Proctor's scar, a fine example of limestone scenery. Unfortunately, about fifteen minutes after starting the walk the heavy rain started.

We walked along the lane for about a mile then turned off over fields, up to the Norber Erratics. Here we had a quick coffee break among these interesting, unusual shaped boulders but as it was raining so hard we did not stay to wander further around them but made our way down again through several fields and over very slippery styles to reach the Austwick Beck.

Even in the pouring rain it was a delightful spot, with two footbridges spanning it, one of which being an old clapper bridge. It was decided to have an early lunch here as it was the most sheltered place available.



The walk continued along another doubled walled track before opening out on to open country. A short upward climb brought us to the top of Moughton Scar, where an extensive limestone pavement stretched out before us. By this time it had stopped raining but unfortunately a distant mist prevented us seeing Ingleborough and Pen-y-ghent but we were able to get a good view of Crummack Dale. Following a faint track north westwards through the limestone pavement we reached Sulber gate.

Passing through the gate the dry stone wall provided shelter from the strong wind so we were able to have a ten minute drink stop before continuing along the gentle grassy path downwards towards Long Lane.

The way back to Clapham took us along a good track through Clapdale wood, following the Clapham beck. Although not a right of way this track is open to the public and gave us a nice varied finish to the walk.

The walk finished at about 4.15.pm giving time to those who wished to enjoy the pleasures of the pub or tea shop.