

STRIDERS WALKING 2012 - 2013

JULY 2012: NETHERFIELD LAGOONS

The walking group met for the first time on Thursday 12th July 2012 on what was probably the first day of our British summer (it may also be the last). The longer and shorter group were combined for a short walk from the Gedling shoppers car park to Netherfield lagoons and back. The group was entertained by Sue's mountaineering and photographic exploits as well as her performance on the zip wire in the children's playground. Refreshments were enjoyed in the Willowbrook Club at the end of the walk and may become a feature of future walks. We will split into two separate groups for future walks so strollers can stroll and striders can stride out.



AUGUST 2012: EPPERSTONE

The August striders walk was a circular walk in the area to the east of Epperstone. The weather was overcast but dry and the visibility was excellent. Refreshments were enjoyed at Hollybeck Nurseries halfway round and at The Cross Keys at the end of the walk. Once again Sue entertained us with a demonstration of her skills: this time on the children's trampoline and a good time was had by all.



SEPTEMBER 2012: CHATSWORTH

The striders September walk was in Derbyshire and we hit the jackpot with the weather. Although the ground was a bit wet in parts the weather was dry and sunny and visibility was excellent. We had superb views across the Edges and the Chatsworth Estate and enjoyed a well-earned lunch break after climbing the 128 steps up to the Hunting Lodge. Once again we were treated to Sue's skills, this time driving the minibus for which we were all very grateful.



OCTOBER 2012: GUNTHORPE TO HOVERINGHAM

The Striders October walk was a local walk around Gunthorpe, Caythorpe and Hoveringham. The weather was not as good as on previous walks but there were only a few showers and the sun broke through towards the end. Some of us enjoyed a picnic lunch and we all partook of refreshments at the Unicorn.

NOVEMBER 2012: AMBERGATE & THE CROMFORD CANAL

Eight intrepid walkers braved the weather and were rewarded by a window between two storms. The walk started at Ambergate and climbed through Shining Cliff wood to join the Midshires Way and then dropped down to Whatstandwell and back to Ambergate before the start of the second deluge.

DECEMBER 2012: LAMBLEY & WOODBOROUGH

Sixteen of us braved the storms and enjoyed a seven mile walk in the area between Lambley and Woodborough. Although it was very muddy underfoot, we managed without any rain which was a minor miracle in itself this year. Some of us intend repeating the walk in the summer when hopefully it will be a bit drier and we can enjoy the views without having to concentrate on where we are putting our feet in the mud.

JANUARY 2013: GOTHAM

Fourteen of us enjoyed a six mile walk on the hills around Gotham. There was still a lot of snow about and although it was a bit misty we still had good views across North Leicestershire, South Nottinghamshire and even Derbyshire. The storyboards giving information about the history of Gotham provided extra interest on the route and a number of people said they hoped to repeat the walk in the summer.



FEBRUARY 2013: NEWSTEAD

The first day of spring arrived a day early and 19 of us enjoyed the sunshine on a walk around the Newstead, Papplewick and Linby area. Thankfully there was a lot less mud than on the last 2 walks and the walking conditions were near perfect. Points of interest on the way were the exotic birds (nice rheas) at the start and the very impressive sculptures in the nature reserve developed on the old Newstead pit tip (well at least the leader was impressed). Refreshment was then enjoyed at Larch Farm before we returned to Gedling.



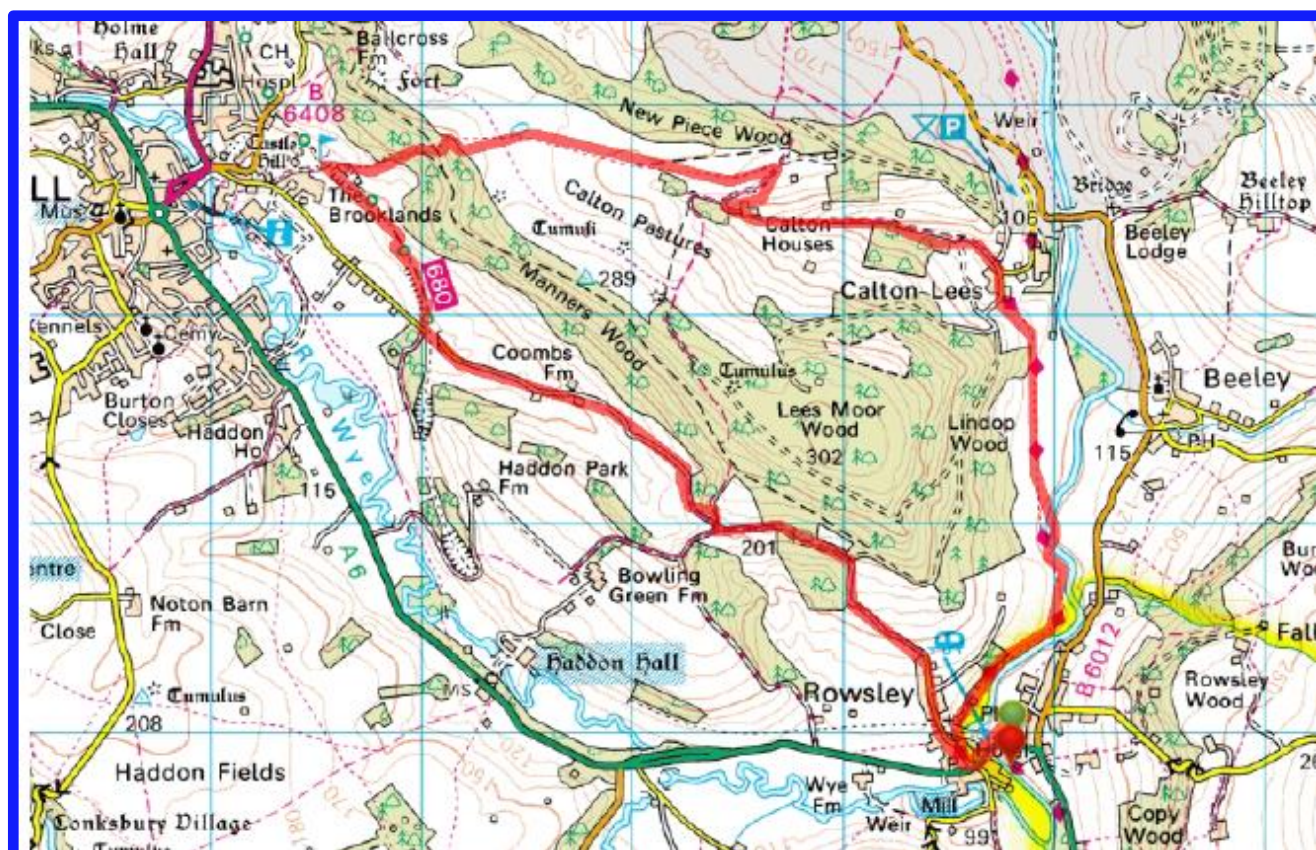
MARCH 2013: NETHERFIELD TO BURTON JOYCE & LAMBLEY

A local walk which took in the Netherfield Lagoons, Stoke Bardolph, Burton Joyce and Lambley. We started the walk in brilliant sunshine but unfortunately it soon clouded over however we escaped the snow storms from earlier in the week. Fifteen of us enjoyed the walk and refreshments were taken at the café in Burton Joyce. and at the Willowbrook Club at the end of the walk.



APRIL 2013: ROWSLEY

The weather finally allowed us to complete the walk we planned in Derbyshire for last month. Seventeen of us enjoyed what was a virtually mud free walk with splendid views over The Chatsworth Estate and Bakewell as well as a particularly impressive wooded knoll, which inspired thoughts of Middle Earth amongst some of the party.

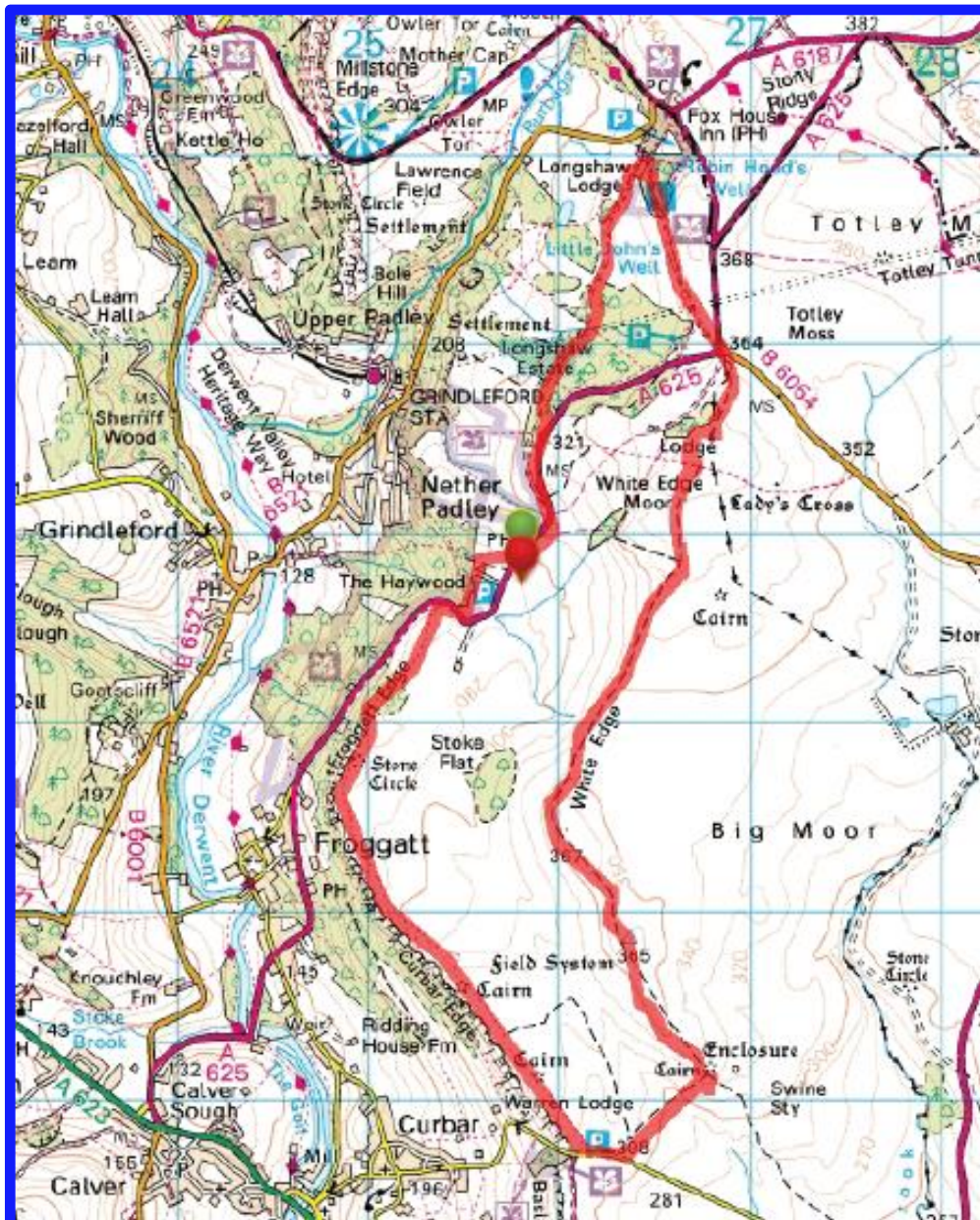




MAY 2013: CURBAR

After a minor delay to accommodate Sue's scenic tour of Derbyshire, fourteen of us set off from the Grouse Inn and after availing ourselves of the facilities at the Longshaw visitors centre we traversed White Edge then after lunch we returned to the cars via Curbar Edge. Unfortunately the Grouse Inn was shut by the time we returned so we stopped off in Baslow for refreshments. We spent most of the day walking in a corridor between 2 hail storms which briefly strayed into our path on 2 occasions. However the weather was generally sunny and the views were excellent.





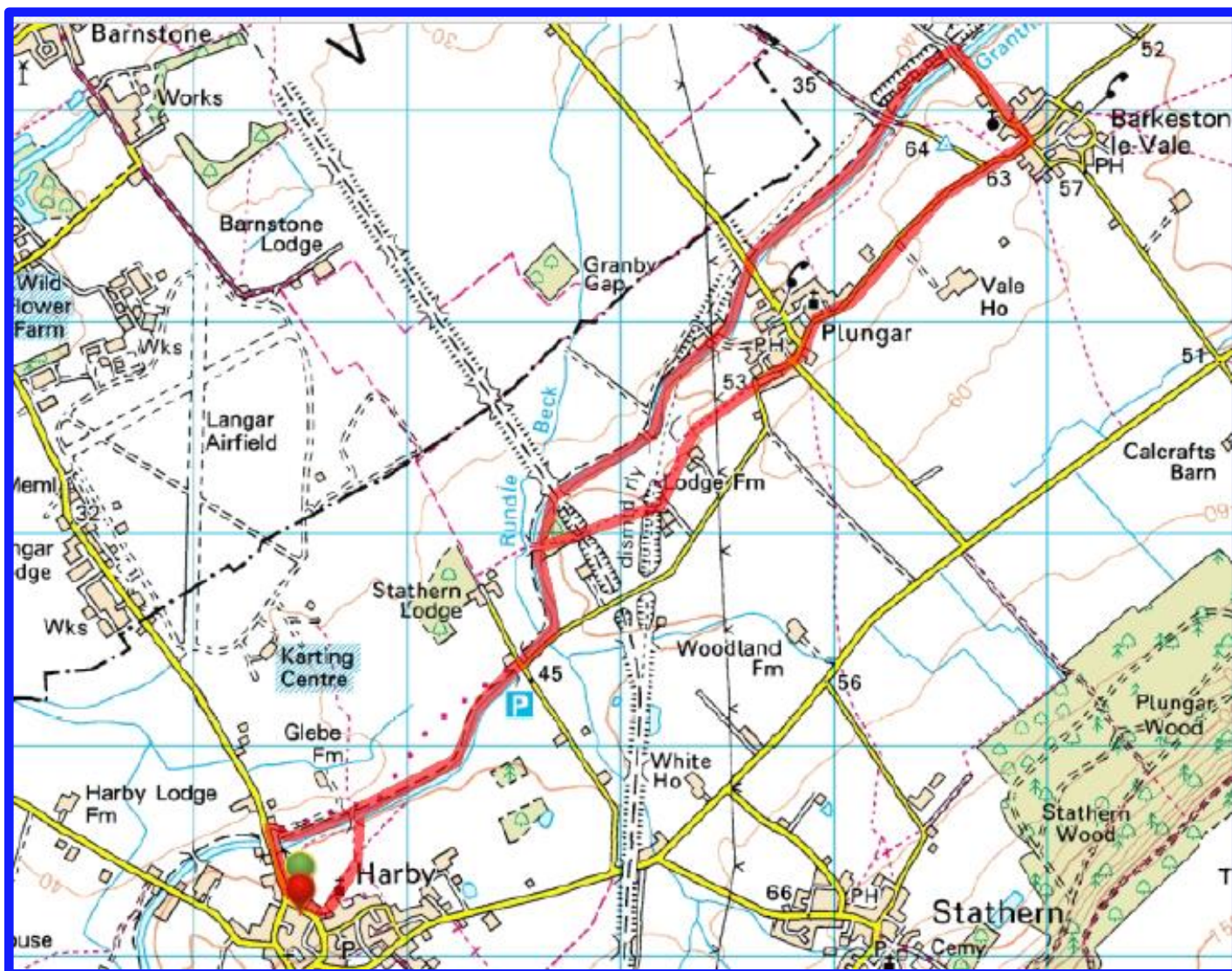
JUNE 2013: EYAM

Sixteen of us enjoyed some splendid views on a walk in the area just north of Eyam in June. We had good weather on the first part of the walk before stopping for lunch where we were entertained by the affectionate sheep who decided to share Mary's food. The weather deteriorated after lunch and we finished the walk in light rain before completing a historic tour of Eyam. Some of the group continued the cultural tour by visiting Eyam Hall and tearooms, while the rest of us retired to the pub and tearoom in Baslow.



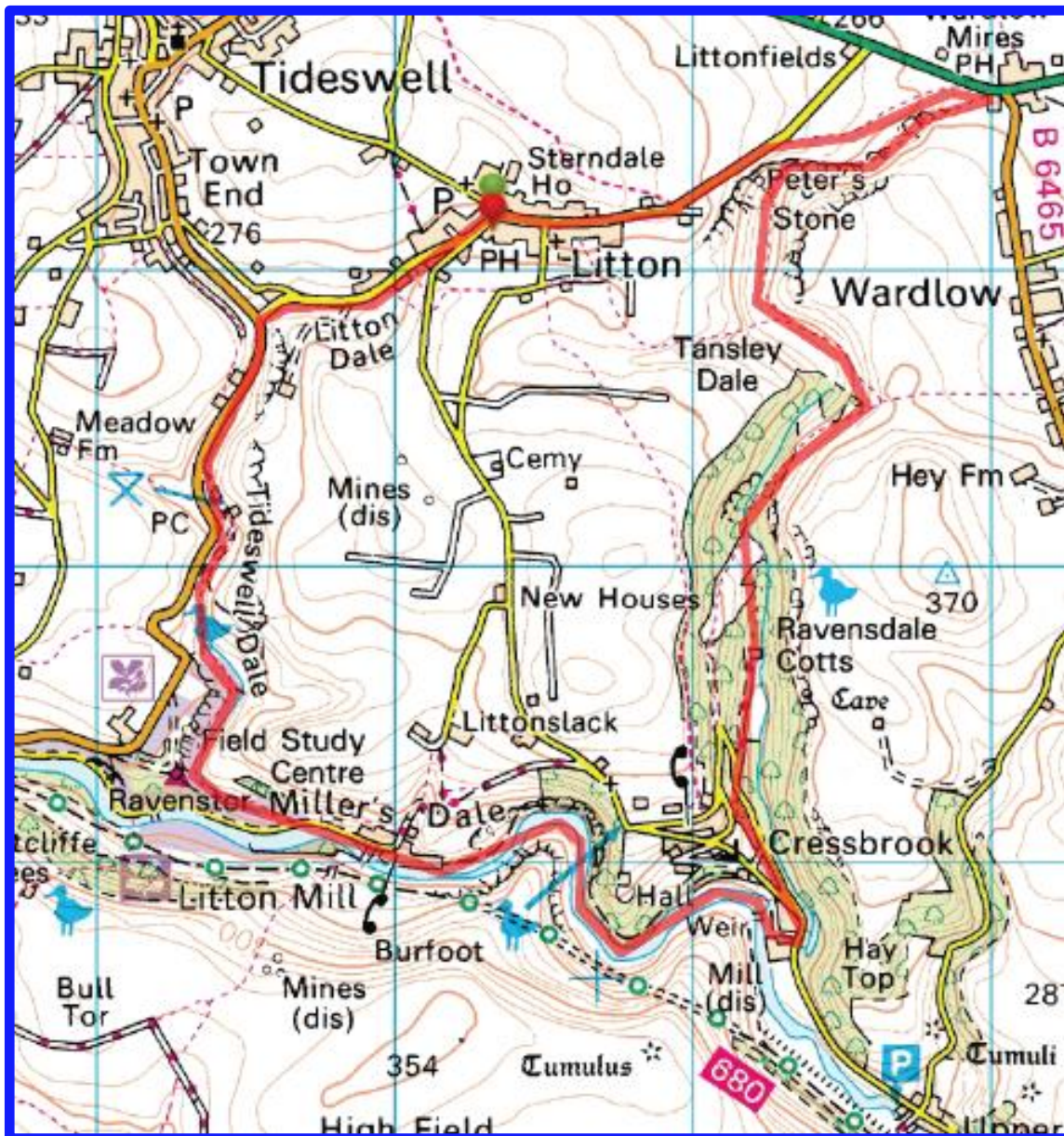
JULY 2013: GRANTHAM CANAL [Map: Striders 2013-07 Grantham Canal]

Owing to holidays, a flooded home and an injury, it was a depleted group of Striders who set out from Harby for the July walk. We had been met at our usual gathering place by Keith, who in the absence of holidaying Brian, was to be our leader, but his injured foot showed that 'striding' was out for him that day! Ranjit valiantly agreed to take over, and Ken became map carrier. So it was that eleven of us enjoyed the walk along a much neglected and wild stretch of the Grantham Canal. We passed under and over bridges, and took great care as we edged around a pair of nesting swans, who hissed and flapped their wings in protection of a clutch of small fluffy cygnets. We returned to Harby by way of gently undulating fields and many a stile. The tall plant with blue flowers, so prettily scattered through one field was discovered later to be Chicory. The village pub beckoned to most before a ride home in the sunshine.



AUGUST 2013: LITTON

Eleven of us enjoyed a picturesque walk in the Derbyshire Dales. The leader survived a mutiny at the start of the walk when he was put in the stocks along with another miscreant. The walk started at the village green in Litton and descended Tideswell Dale before entering Millers Dale and Water cum Jolly Dale where we were entertained by the trout and water vole in the river. We then walked up Cressbrook Dale where everyone opted for the high level route which climbed the side of the dale to a lunch spot with spectacular views. Passing Peters Rock, reputed to be the site of the last hanging from a gibbet in England, we returned to Litton where refreshments were taken at the Red Lion.

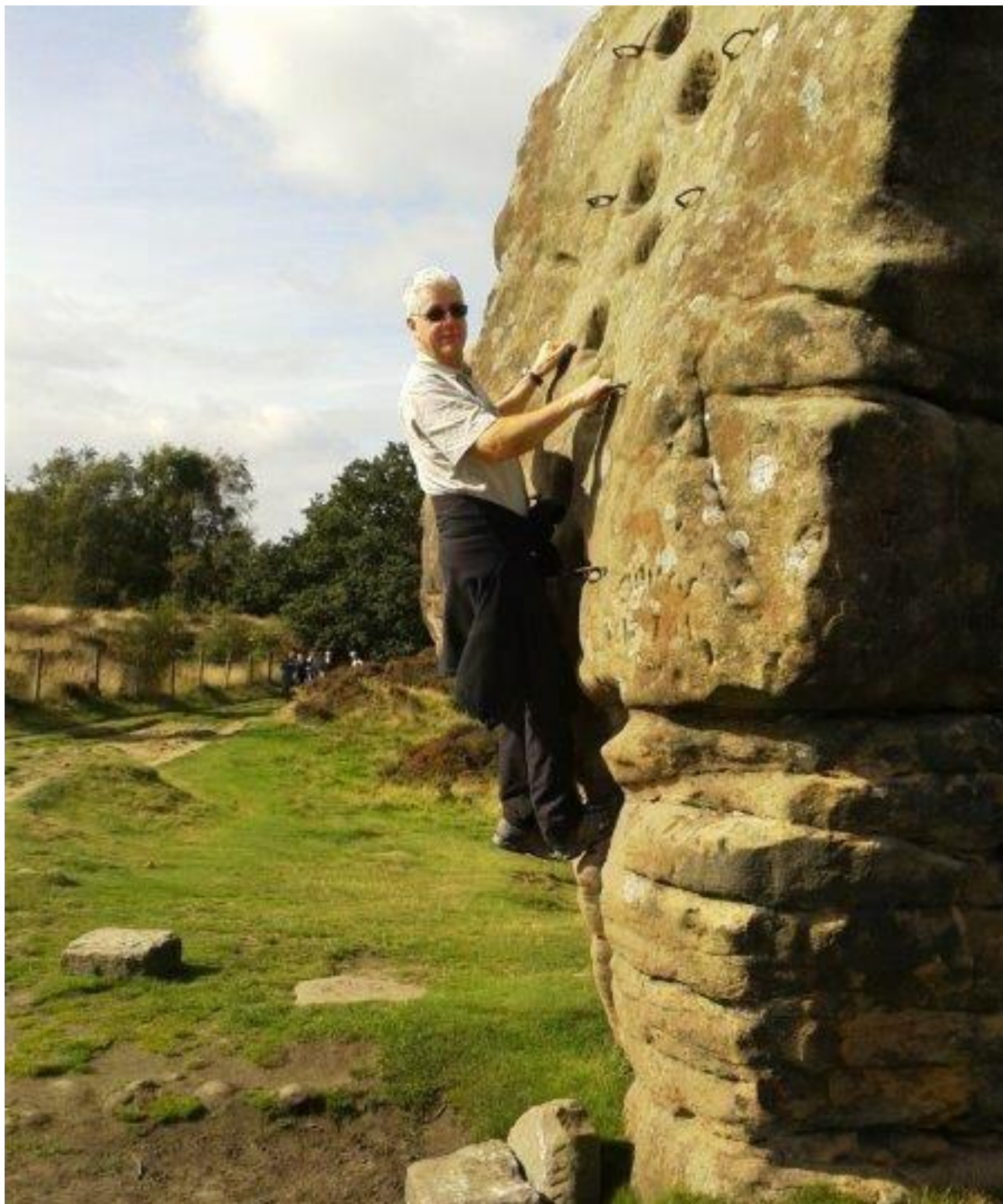


SEPTEMBER 2013: WINSTER

Having viewed the first property purchased by the National Trust, 19 of us set off from Winster and after a steep initial climb we were rewarded by splendid views across the Derwent valley. We then walked along the edge of Stanton Moor, observing some interesting rock formations and a monument to Earl Grey.

After visiting the Nine Ladies Stone Circle we crossed Stanton Moor, where John demonstrated his rock climbing skills, before descending into Birchover for lunch. The more adventurous in the party climbed Rowter Rocks and admired the unusual rock carvings before testing their rock climbing skills up a short chimney leading to the top.

We returned to Winster via the Limestone Way to find the pub closed so some of the party went straight home, while others stopped at The Poet and Castle in Codnor for refreshments.



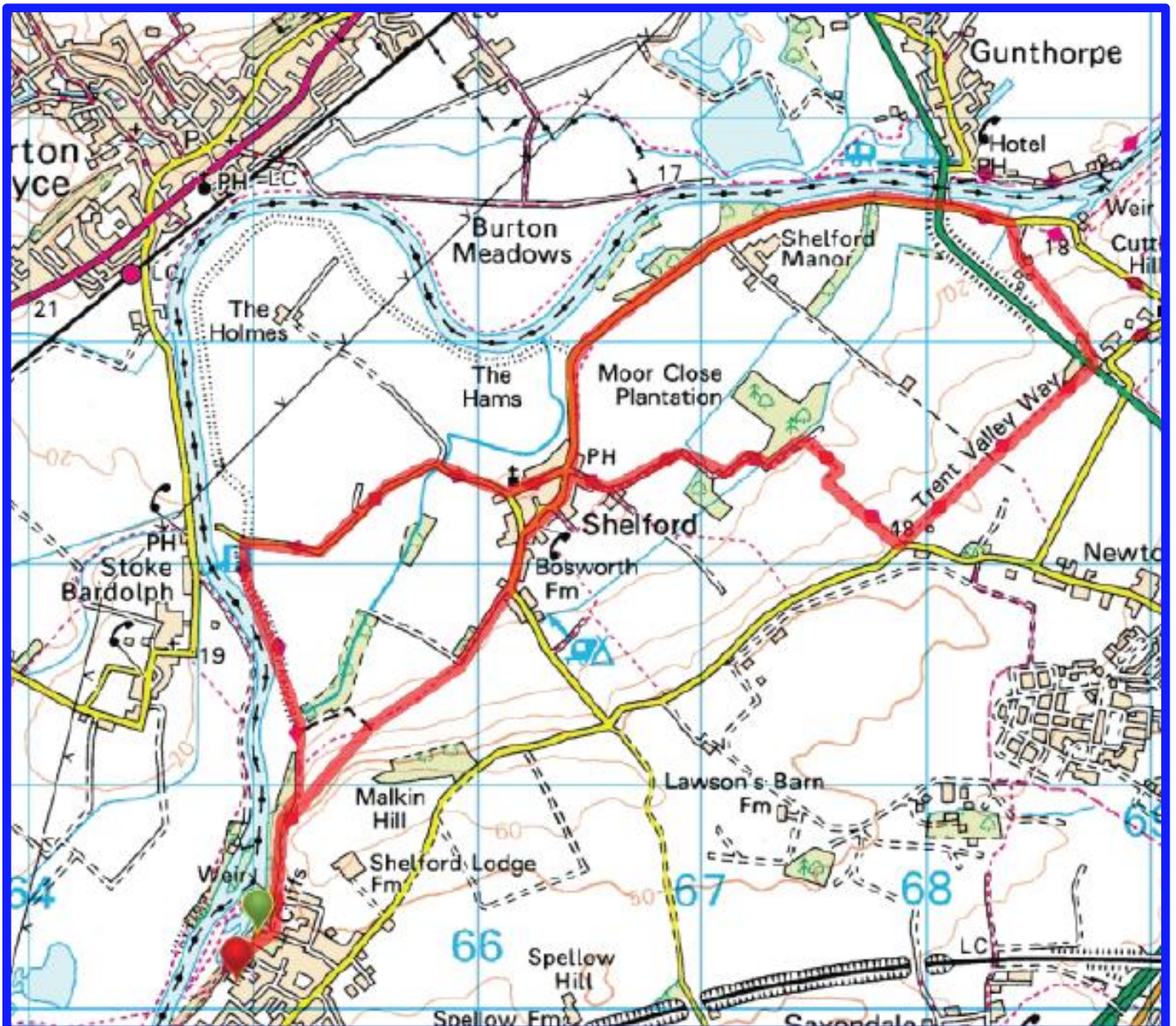
OCTOBER 2013: SHELFORD

Although missing our usual leader, who was sunning it in Spain, 16 of us set out from the car park of the Earl of Chesterfield pub and restaurant in Shelford for a gentle 8 mile double loop.

The walk took us out from Shelford and up to a ridge which we walked along (taking in the windmill stump and eventing course) and down to Gunthorpe bridge. We then went back into Shelford (passing the pub which was fortunately not yet open or I might have lost one or two of the group) and up towards Radcliffe on Trent where we took a very comfortable lunch (benches provided) overlooking the river.

Some of the party did have, a no doubt illegal, swing in the playground. We then walked back along the river to look at the Ferry Boat Inn across the water and returned to Shelford, where, I think, everyone took refreshment at the pub.

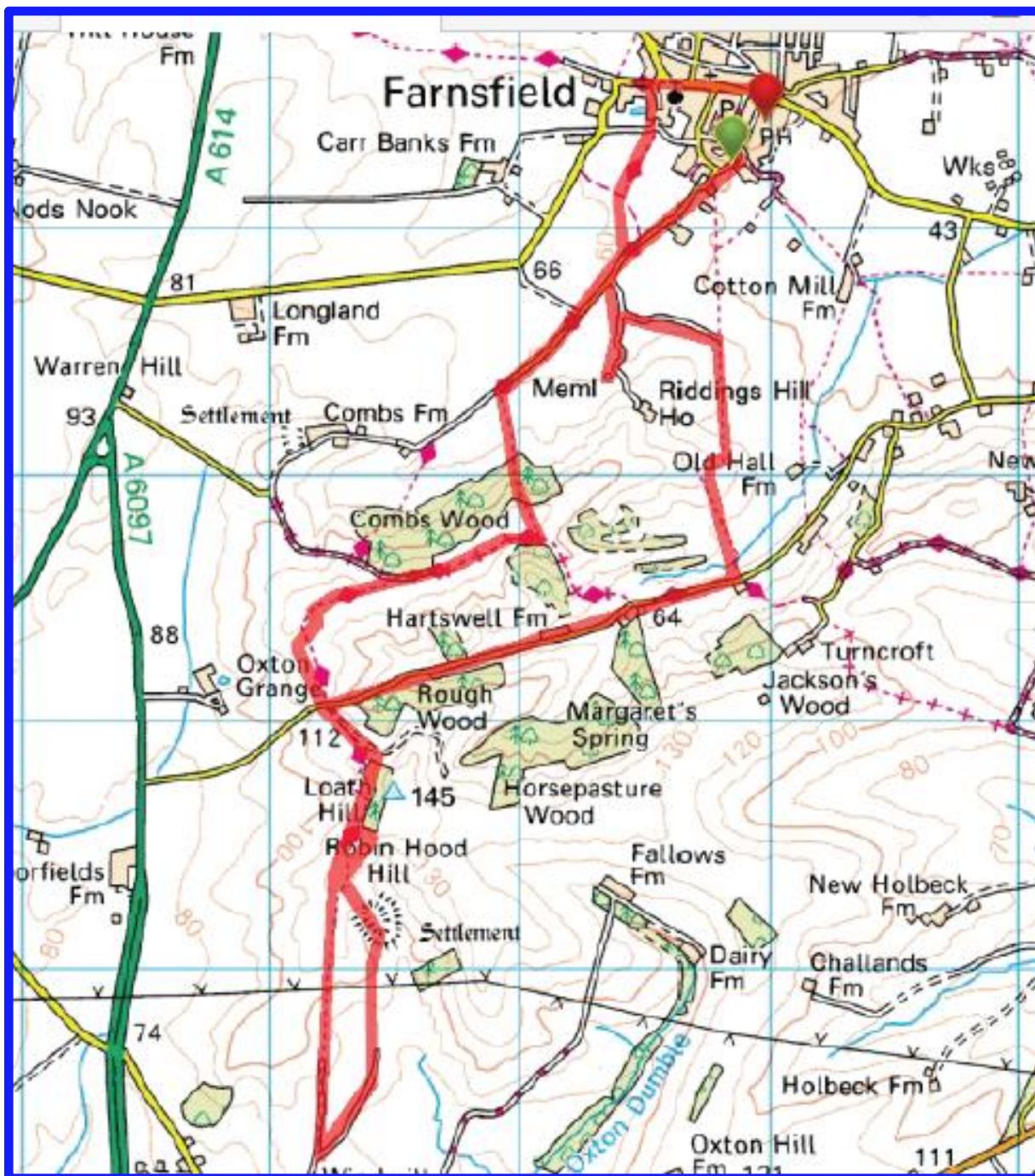
Although some of the puddles were spectacular and the ground wet we did have excellent weather and this let us appreciate the views over the Trent towards Gedling and Burton Joyce. Thanks to Neil and Ranjit for their support and to the walkers who were very good to me.



NOVEMBER 2013: FARNSFIELD & ROBIN HOOD HILL

Thirteen of us braved the mud, which wasn't as bad as we expected and, once we found where the walk started, we visited the Lancaster Bomber Memorial before heading towards Oxton. The site of an old Roman fort stimulated some interesting discussion and provided us with a suitable place to stop for lunch.

We then climbed to the top of Robin Hood Hill, which is arguably one of the best viewpoints in Nottinghamshire. The autumn colours were spectacular and we were very fortunate to see them this late in the year. Returning to Farnsfield via the Robin Hood Way we finished the walk at The Plough where we enjoyed the hospitality on offer.



DECEMBER 2013: BLIDWORTH

Eleven of us walked off some of the excesses of Christmas with a shorter walk than usual after a later start. The walk was from Blidworth and we walked in the direction of Ravenshead before

crossing to The Robin Hood Way. We passed Robin Hood's Well and a wind farm, which looked eerie in the mist, before returning to The Bird in Hand for refreshments.

