

## WALGRAVE WILD WALKERS

### 2009-01-31 Dark Peaks (really wild) walk



The walking party, comprising James Nasen, Malcolm Campbell and John Thompson, departed Walgrave @ 07:00, parked and walked from King's Tree (SK167937, 270m) on the West bank of Howden Reservoir at 10:00. The weather was dry but hazy and cold, 0° on tops, with a steady 20 knot wind, giving a wind chill factor of around -9°.

#### Malcolm explaining to James how to cross the bridge!

We walked due North at first, up the East side of what was left of the Derwent Reservoir, before crossing the Derwent itself at SK169950

Having crossed the Derwent, we briefly followed a path beside the Cranberry Brook, fording it at two points, before leaving the path and making our way up Bull Clough to the Bull Stones at Bull Clough



Head, SK179962, 500m (see photos, right & left).



From Bull Clough Head, we navigated our way NW across featureless moorland to the Brow Stones at SK 170970, then to the wreckage of a Norwegian registered Airspeed Console aircraft (photo left) that crashed on 12<sup>th</sup> April 1951, killing all three persons on board at SK174966, 500m (photo right).



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Continuing across the featureless heather and bog, we reached the Horse Stone, SK147975, 510m, where we stopped for lunch before proceeding on to the Hoar Stones at SK155981, the Shepherds Meeting Stones at SK144981, and the Dean Head Stones at SK139982. At this point, we had crossed what seemed like miles of heather and peat bog, interlaced with obstacles that we alternately waded through or descended into (photo right)!



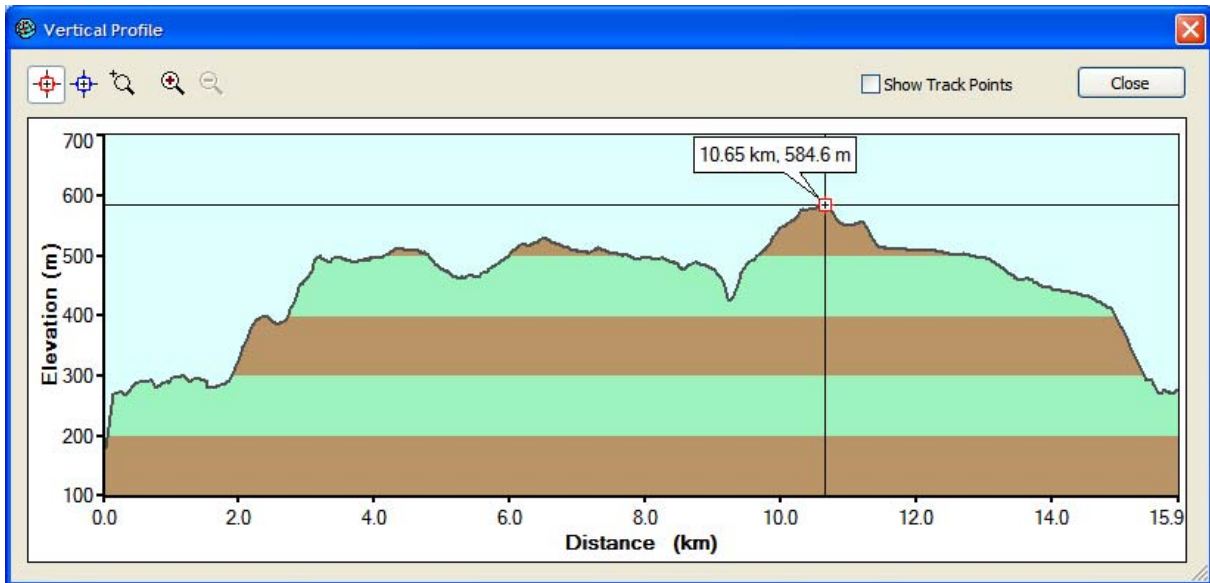
But we had had it easy until now! We descended into Barrow Clough to re-cross the river Derwent at SK137980, 430m (photo left), before climbing *steeply* up to the Barrow Stones at SK134967, 590m (photo following).

According to Malcolm, the photograph (right) shows a rock formation in the shape of Punch (of Punch and Judy fame). The lad has a good imagination don't you think?



From this point our route was fairly straight forward in navigational terms; we set a bearing for the bottom of Linch Clough and went for it, via Round Hill and the Crown Stones at SK137964. Malcolm suggested saving some film (?) for a 1st but unmissable photo-opportunity, but the light was fading fast by now and didn't do the scene justice. Nevertheless, here it is (left).

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We regained the car park at King's Tree, knackered after 17km of mixed heather and peat bog, fantastically beautiful scenery and skylscapes, meeting only three other walkers in one group, and in good time to drive off at 16:30 as planned. All agreed that we had enjoyed a really wild walk, this being the first such for two of us (did you enjoy it Malc?). Roll on the next one.

