



Malham 2014



Malham 2014

DAY ONE (Friday 7th March 2014)

4+1 head for the hills

A number of years had passed since an Expo had been documented to the level of detail enjoyed by several thousand interested readers of bygone episodes. So, time to put fingers to keyboard and record the latest Expo, namely Malham 2014. With all childcare provisions in place and all photographic equipment stowed neatly in the rear luggage compartment (even Mick had acquired a new camera to enlarge the crop of expected photographic classics) we were set for a wild weekend in the Yorkshire Dales and destined to experience the delights of Malham Youth Hostel.



Mike had recently suffered a bout of illness, but had fortunately recovered sufficiently to allow attendance. Steve had valiantly volunteered to provide transport so that Mike could relax in the back seat and leisurely peruse his ipad or doze off – neither of these activities are advisable whilst driving with safety conscious passengers. And so it was that we joined up with Steve at Brentwood within five minutes of the scheduled time of 1:00 pm for the Friday afternoon getaway.

After a quick pit stop at Mick's sister's and a view around their renovated 1666 listed home, we arrived in good time to drop off bags, allocate bunks, and clarify the breakfast arrangements with the Youth Hostel staff. The latter proved to be a surprisingly difficult task. Mick had originally booked just four people for two nights ...

(= 8 breakfasts i.e. 4 people x 1 breakfast per person per day x 2 days).

... and logically enough ordered an extra 2 breakfasts for himself

(i.e 1 person x 1 breakfast per person per day x 2 days)

... making a total of 10 breakfasts for the group. What could be simpler?

After several misunderstandings, clarifications and confirmations the booking adjustment was finally accepted and we could retire in the safe knowledge that we might well have to eat two breakfasts per day per person per misinterpretation. This was confirmed when just prior to going up to our room, the youth hostel receptionist wanted to double check the breakfast arrangements (again).

On to more important matters, the Youth Hostel at Malham has two pubs conveniently situated within staggering distance and we opted for the Buck Inn which only required a few extra footsteps compared to the Lister Arms.



Pub A: The Lister Arms (YH building next door!)



Pub B: The Buck Inn (extra 20 yards)

All appeared to be going well with plentiful food and beverages flowing to our table. However, I and others in the group noticed that Roger was looking decidedly off colour. In fact after consuming his substantial Jalfrezi curry all the colour had drained from his face and he confessed to feeling quite close to fainting. Mike suggested that all his blood was now pre-occupied with the digestion of his evening meal and had ceased to bother about any other bodily needs. The room was also quite warm with an open fire blazing nearby and when combined with a hot curry – the result was that Roger reluctantly had to retire early (even leaving an unfinished pint on the table). I am pleased to report however that the fresh air and an early night were enough to remedy his condition in readiness for ...

DAY TWO (Saturday 8th March 2014)

Arncliffe - 10.8 mile walk

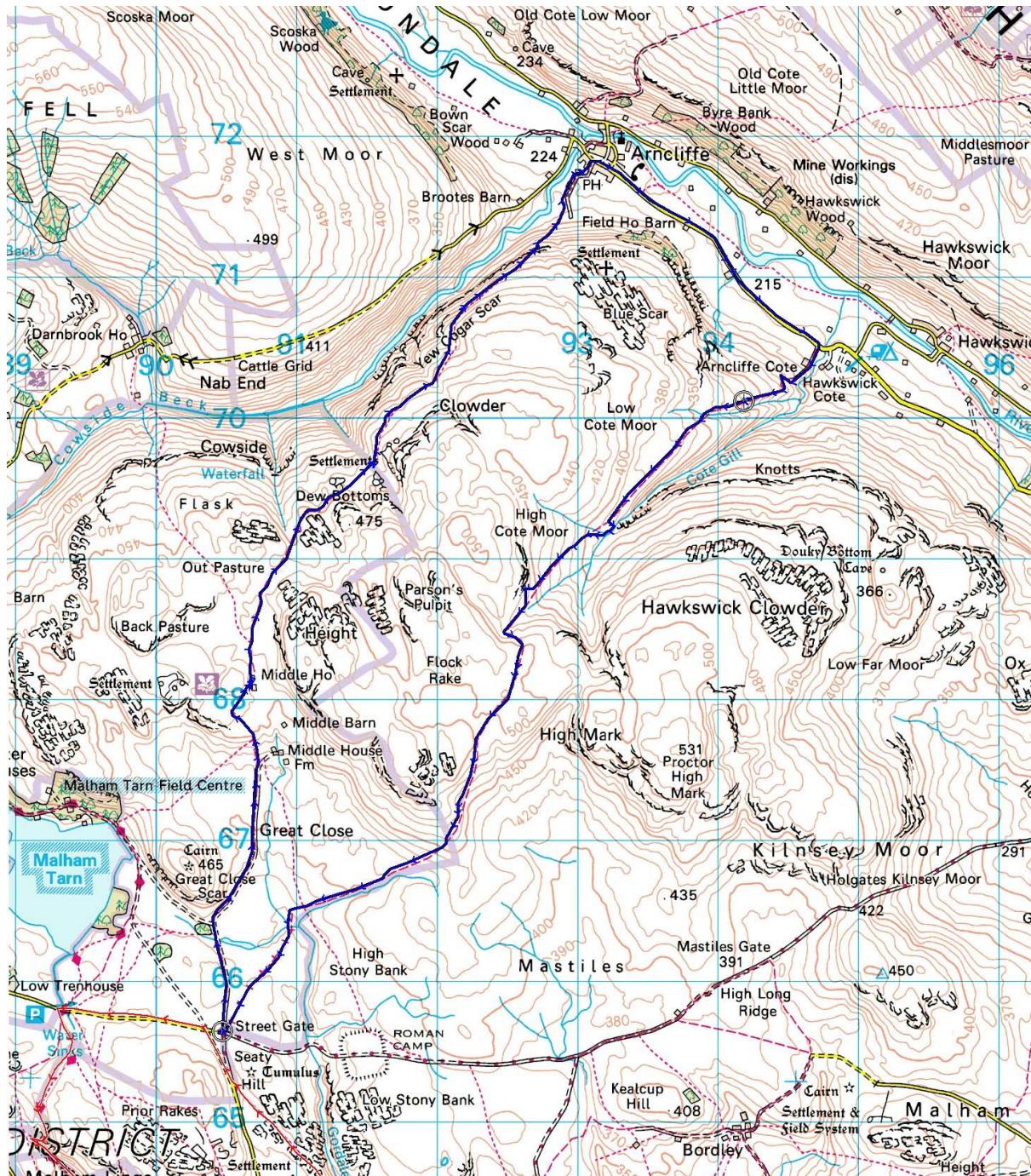
The first walk of the weekend, courtesy of Mick was a circular walk starting near Malham tarn. The walk was also recommended by Mick's sister as this includes one of her favourite views down to Arncliffe village. After finding a place to park at the start we decided that a group picture was called for and using a conveniently positioned trailer as a camera support, two cameras were set to self-timer and captured the group with both cameras clicking simultaneously.



Spot the difference competition: same time same place

With no other delaying tactics available we set off towards Middle House Farm.

Roger's GPS route recording equipment was keeping track of our progress and he could often be seen tapping away frantically at the screen (accompanied by a peculiar audible feedback similar to a loud dripping tap) with several precautionary backups made just in case the battery gave out. Despite this effort, a technical hitch resulted in the route mysteriously disappearing. A post walk generation of the route was kindly provided by Roger (see below).



Arncliffe circular walk starting from Street Gate (courtesy Rog)

After a couple of miles we paused at a moss covered derelict farm building for the obligatory photographic stop. We then skirted along the valley of Cowside Beck and surveyed the view of Arncliffe village.



Middle House Farm



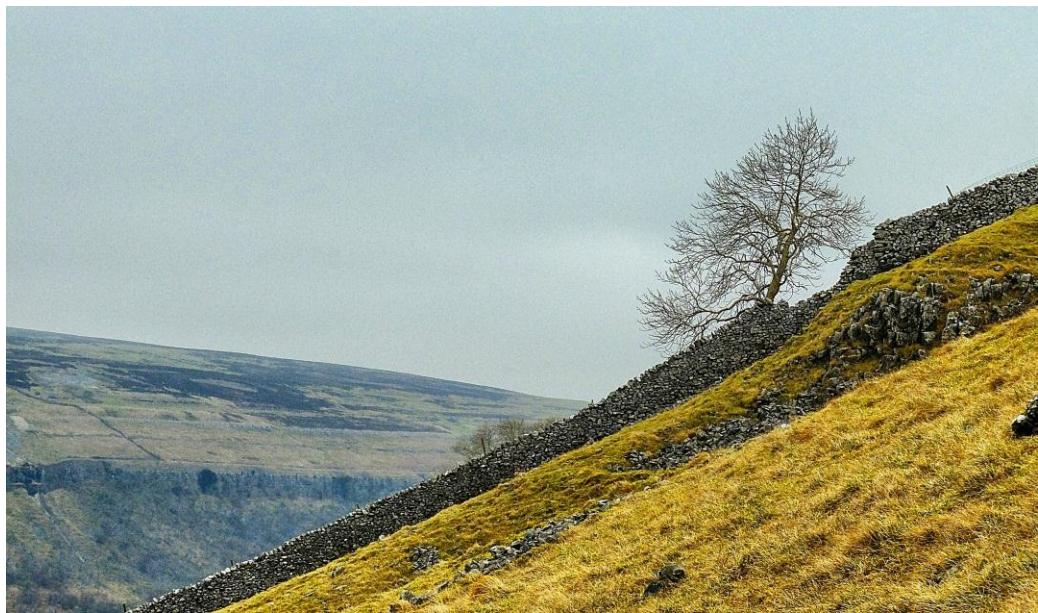
Derelict farm and site of extensive photographic activity

After seeing Mike try an interesting take of a sign post. Roger was keen to reproduce a similar shot himself. This in turn provided me with nice profile of the photographer in action ...



A sign of a photo opportunity

The rugged landscape around Arncliffe provided more photo opportunities ...



Arncliffe



High Cote Moor





Rock face



Field trip

The rugged landscape also included rugged looking cows. A trip through their fields led back to the car and a short drive back to the youth hostel.

The previous evening's pub was revisited but with no repeat of any adverse physical reactions – apart from some alleged nocturnal disturbances emanating from Steve and reported the following morning by Roger. I forgot to put in my ear plugs and often found myself awake to a symphony of several snoring sleepers.

DAY Three (Sunday 9th March 2014)

Goredale Scar and Malham Cove - 7.3 miles

After refuelling with Youth Hostel breakfasts we were ready for another expedition – this time starting from Malham Youth Hostel, taking in Goredale Scar and Malham Cove as shown on our second route map below.



Goredale Scar and Malham Cove circular walk from Malham YH



Tree treasure beside Gordale Beck



Janet's Foss, near Malham



A pleasant walk alongside Gordale Beck, we passed some tree trunks full of coins pressed into the grain of the wood. This was followed by a walk along a valley towards Goredale Scar.

Gordale Scar is at the northern end of Craven Fault, a 22-mile geological fault line which runs from the borders of Cumbria into the Yorkshire Dales. It is somewhere around 15 to 16 million years old.



Heading towards Gordale Scar waterfall



Gordale Scar waterfall scramble

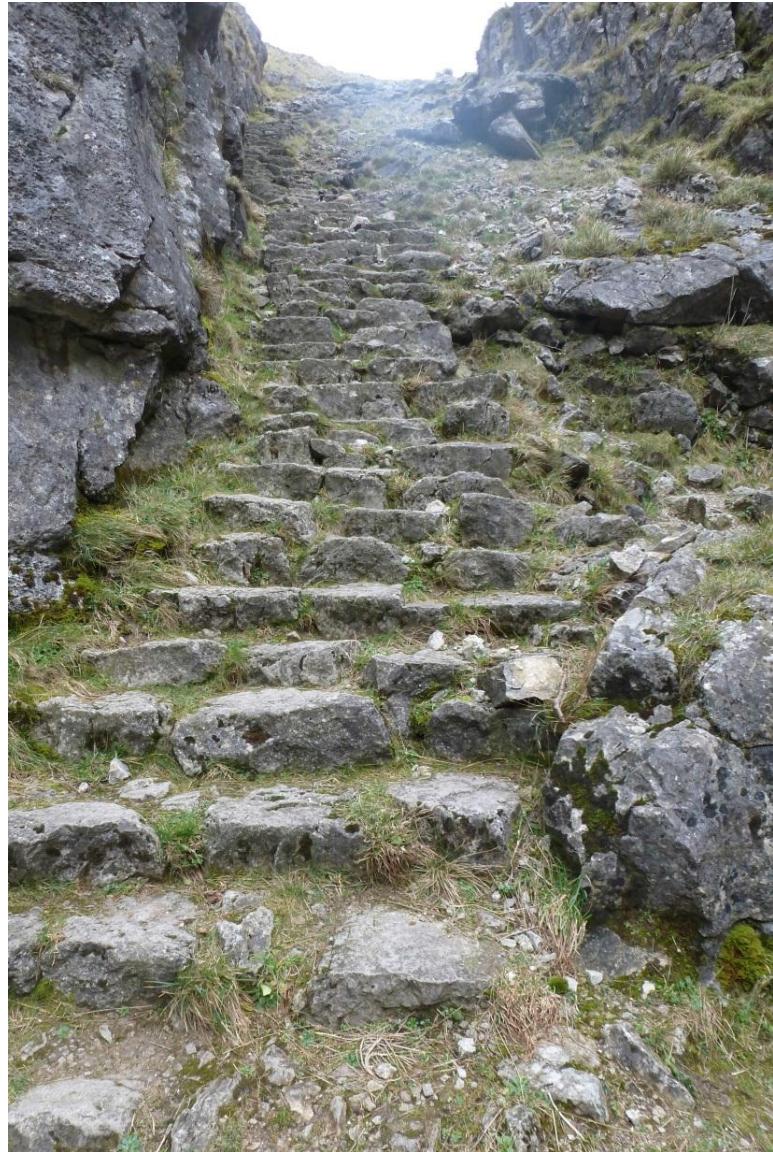


Looking back from Gordale Scar waterfall



Water feature at Goredale Scar





A time to stop and stair



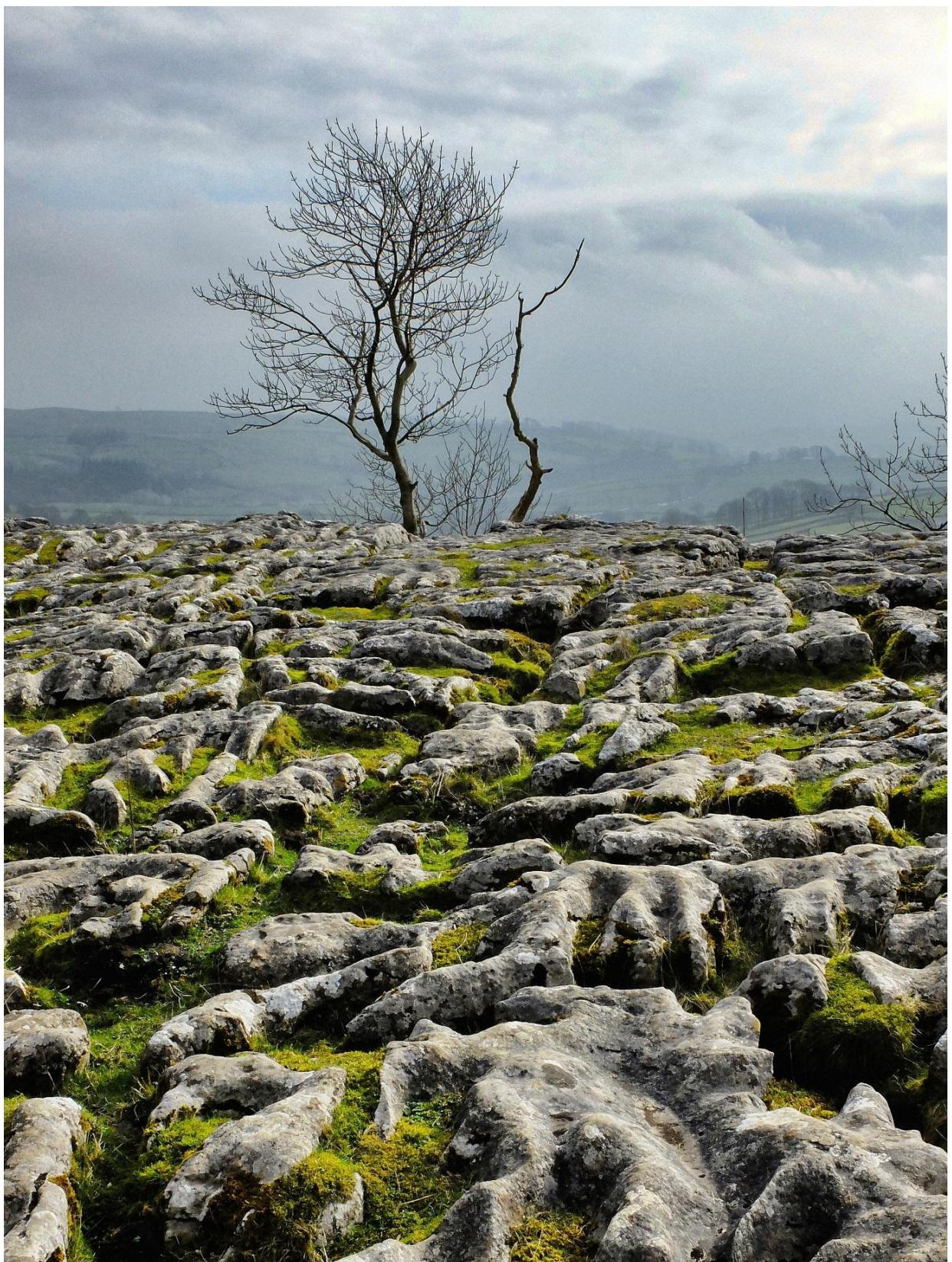
Five to Elevenses



Mike recalls past ventures on the Pennine Way



If you want to get ahead – get a hat – but maybe not Roger's



A Mike Bryant Malham portrait landscape



On top of Malham Cove



Malham Cove



Roger in position for precipitous view of Malham Cove – top down



Cliff edge eye's view of Malham Cove—top down

Fortunately Roger avoided toppling over the edge – although I must admit it looked a bit hairy from where I was standing – and the resulting shot from leaning over the cliff edge is shown above. This also shows the track (top left) that leads down from the top of Malham Cove.



Malham Cove – bottom up

Roger and I headed up to the face of Malham Cove to view crazy climbers clambering up the rock face while the rest of the party headed back to the Youth Hostel.



Farewell to Malham Cove



The End