

MWGG fieldtrip to

Trollers Gill – Thursday 11 July 2013



Mid Week Geology Group with David Leather gather near an old lead shaft

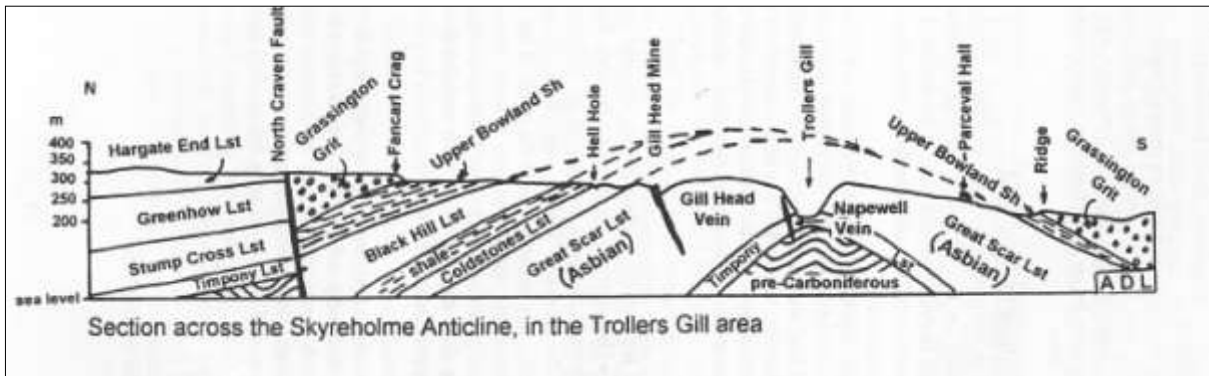
Following the hottest days of the year so far, early morning mist brought a cool start from New Road above Trollers Gill as 21 scantily dressed Mid-Weekers shivered at 300m above sea level.

Along a small track we found Hell Hole, suitably surrounded by a wire fence, through which a few agile members descended to the entrance of the 30m pot. Here they found the algae *Girvanella* which denotes the change from Great Scar Limestone to the Bowland Shales/Yoredales above. We walked on, to an enormous gritstone erratic, perched on the side of the valley with a wonderful view across to more perched blocks and we could make out lines of old diggings along lead veins.

By the time we arrived at the road cutting the sun had appeared and from then on it was a glorious summer's day. Corals and crinoids on one side of the road contrasted with a facies of shelly brachiopods on the other. We met local farmer Bill Sutcliffe who was interested in our findings. Fluorite and small bits of galena proved what had been mined at Gill Heads Mine (right). The flower leadwort was everywhere.



At the bottom of the track we sank down onto the flowery slopes for a picnic lunch, before attempting the gorge bash of the gill itself (left). On the way we passed two gushing springs, explored an adit called Nick level and arrived at Hopewell Level. Here the tip heaps yielded specimens of dolomite, calcite, fluorite and galena with a small amount of sphalerite, the ore of zinc.



We returned via a high ladder stile and another fine view of the surroundings, with a good impression of how the Skyreholme anticline produced the gritstone scarps of Simon's Seat and Fancarl Crag, bringing up the limestone in its core.

Having completed the geological circuit, several members repaired to the cafe at Stump Cross for much needed refreshment.

Report by David Leather, photographs by Jeremy Freeman

Full details of the geological background and geology trail can be found on page 66 of the Yorkshire Geological Society's publication **Yorkshire Rocks and Landscape** excursion no. 6 **Dinantian and Namurian rocks of Bolton Abbey and Trollers Gill**.