

GEOLOGY AND LANDSCAPE

A sunny day in May found the group on Cunswick Fell between Underbarrow and Kendal. It was a walk with Geology! Interesting to see the shape of the fells that is all down to the underlying rocks and ancient faults. We saw the result of glaciation when the area was under 300m of ice. Many stones in the walls had been transported and then deposited when the ice melted. The group had to employ their detective skills on this large boulder (pictured) and concluded that it had travelled on the ice from further north, probably from the Kentmere area.

Everyone managed to get down the steep Cunswick Scar (Dalton limestone) to a spring and then to Cunswick Tarn, a very unusual feature in our limestone hills. More field walls revealed a huge number of fossils which we were told were colonial corals - once, they were living in warm shallow seas when our bit of Britain was in the tropics! We were having a taste of the sunshine too.

From below the Scar it was possible to see where part of the ridge had moved east-west and we could identify this 'fault' on our geology map. Gamblesmire Lane follows the line of this fault - it makes an easier way up to the top of the ridge, as our ancestors knew. The road over from Underbarrow also follows a fault line.

There was so much to see that we didn't have time to examine the Lime Kiln - some time we'll go back for another look.

We look forward to our next outdoor meeting, looking at the Coniston Coppermines with Andrew Musgrave at the beginning of June.

We are a friendly group of beginners and experts with all levels of knowledge in between. You are welcome to join us - contact Susan Jones.

Elaine Hodkinson