

A Day in Cheshire - Route

A walk described in the Ashton Weekly Reporter and Stalybridge and Duckinfield Chronicle, 6 April 1867 by 2 un-named gentlemen

Sue Lorimer & I researched their route in 4 leisurely separate walks using Peter Winn's transcribed text ([attachment 2](#)) and the Frodsham Parish Paths map extract ([attachment 3](#)). We also used copies of the OS 1874 6" maps and our local historical knowledge. We are pretty confident about much of their route and have used photographs of features they met as well as ones showing subsequent landscape changes.

On this second day in Frodsham they walked past the Bear's Paw, along High Street and The Rock, on to Bridge Lane and Frodsham Bridge (Photos 1-5 – see [attachment 4](#)). From here they walked 'out of area' to Rock Savage – no longer doable – but were back at Frodsham Bridge in the late morning.

They followed Fp75 (P6), Fp71 (P7), Fp73 and maybe a continuous Fp3 – now truncated by a post WW2 housing development – to Overton. The footpaths are shown and numbered on the Parish Paths map extract. We're pretty certain this route was their short cut to higher land. Overton had several thatched cottages up to the early 20th century, with just one remaining today (P8). The walkers probably ate at one of Overton's 3 pubs: The Ring o'Bells, the Bull's Head or the Roebuck – the latter is now a private house.

Note: the Barron / Barn Hill is not visible from Overton and there is no Roman Camp and no tumulus in Frodsham Parish! (CWAC HERS records consulted.)

From Overton they took Middle Walk and climbed up to Ladies Walk (P9-11). As they skirted the top of Dunsdale Hollow they would have seen Mickledale on their left (P12), and then taken Fp88 through Mickledale farm. We are confident of this leg of their walk, but, we were unable to use this route to Mickledale farm because the path across the modern golf course was no longer visible (P13, 15 & 16) and there was an area of boggy ground with bull rushes beyond the kissing gate (P14), which we reached from Mickledale farm.

Leaving the farm behind (P17-18) and turning south on to Fp24, the walkers would have seen the high point, Harrol Edge, and reached it on Fp45 (P19-21).

After exploring Harrol Edge the walkers followed FP21A (P22-23), but, from there to Fp37 their route is uncertain. Sue & I skirted the southern side of Woodhouse Hill on Fp21 and Fp43 (P24-26) and then descended the scarp face on Fp44 (P27), this route would have been available to the walkers but there is no evidence of a cave, i.e. Robin Hood's oven, in this area.

From this point, the walkers' description suggests they followed Fp37 to the north (P28-30) and from lower Dunsdale Hollow they found their way back into Frodsham.

Kath Gee 23.09.2020