

Trip Report: The Peak District

Date: 10th December 2006

Group: Colin (leader), Jim and Roxie (canine)

Route: Castleton, taking in Mam Tor (1695ft), Lose Hill and Win Hill

Total Distance: 10.5 miles

Total Ascent: Unknown

Weather: Excellent, considering the wet weather before (and after!)

Time: 4 hours 35 mins

With last minute call off from the normally reliable Mike and Lesley, we were down to two, plus one canine! Have we ever experienced such BUM apathy? The club has literally gone to the dogs! In fact, the dogs are now officially the best BUM attendees and by a distance the most enthusiastic members!

This walk should have ticked the boxes for even the most apathetic BUM member as it was a relatively short drive to Castleton, which really is a beautiful part of the world, and this time of year is almost certainly best time to visit to avoid the crowds! The walk itself was fairly gentle, very easy to navigate and given the heavy rain which had fallen during the week was remarkably bog free!

Proof that not all (in fact remarkably few) Bum walks are strenuous! (may I officially go on record to say the Howgills experience which seems to have scarred many wannabe BUMS, was an exception!! ... just don't use Big Jims book again!)

After minor hiccup, initially missing the Castleton turning, (no Tom-Tom aboard!!), we parked just outside Castleton, at foot of Winnetts Pass. Striding out to Mam Tor, we made good progress and were rewarded at top, with fine views of Edale and Kinder to the north and Hope valley to the east, and a pretty ridge leading from the summit down to Hollins Cross then along to Lose Hill.

The walk along the ridge to Lose Hill is actually paved most of the way, wherby we descended back down towards Hope, before picking our route up our next peak which was Win Hill Pike where we stopped for lunch. To complete the route, we dropped back down through Hope Village, taking the riverside path back to, and through, Castleton, noting that every second building seems to be a pub or tea room. This place needs another visit!

Avoiding temptation to accept the "muddy boots welcome" pub invitations we headed back to the car. Just before leaving Castleton we passed a cave entrance called the 'Devils Arse', underneath Peveril Castle.

Allegedly, it's the largest natural cave entrance in Britain and the second largest in the world and even claims to have had a pub in it at one time!
Told you it was good place.

Back to Dysart for usual re-hydration picking up our esteemed Chairman on the way, who was house bound due to breaking his leg the previous Wednesday! Excuses like "I've broken my leg" are acceptable even from the Chairman, but unfortunately for him, he'd already backed out of walk earlier in week citing the excuse as Christmas shopping.... (sic!)

[it must have been a premonition ! - Ed]

Being so high in office we'd have expected a better example but at least he bought us a beer, so vote for Tonio for another year!

Excellent day out and ticks all boxes for future family Christmas expedition!

Colin