

Trip Report: The Peak District**Date:** 29th January 2010**Group:** Mike (Leader) & Lesley, Jim G, Lynn, Jean, Hugh**Route:** Longnor - Hitter Hill - Parkhouse Hill - Chrome Hill (Approx height 400m) - Tor Rock - Hollinsclough - Longnor**Total Distance:** 8 miles**Total Ascent:** 1706 ft**Weather:** Sunshine and icy wind**Time:** 4 hours 30 mins

We were rewarded with a cool clear day for our inaugural midweek walk which has been included in the calendar to accommodate the growing band of retired members, plus part-time and flexi-time workers.

It was good to see Hugh, who had driven all the way from Bedfordshire through the morning rush to be with us. I didn't realise what excellent company we must be! It probably wasn't the route which attracted him because I had never heard of these hills before unearthing the walk in an ancient Trail magazine. It looked promising as there were some pictures of some pointy shapely hills which didn't disappoint, (there should be plenty of photographic evidence supplied by Jim's camera).

We left Bunbury at 08.00 with a plan to meet Hugh at 09.30. We were running 15mins late so Jim tried to ring Hugh to keep him posted. The first attempt was not picked up so he tried again. Strangely, my mobile kept ringing at precisely the same time. Was Hugh also trying to contact us?

No! The truth was that Jim had the same number for both of us. This was more hilarious at the time than later in the cold light of day however thought it was worth mentioning just to show that the Hon Sec is not as organised as we are led to believe.

We met up with Hugh despite the communication cock up and we set off from Longnor over a number of extremely boggy fields towards the hills. The January snows had largely thawed to create the bogs but there were still remains of snow on the hills which made for a scenic view. The walk was basically a chain of hills running north-west, with the return along the base of these hills heading south-east back to Longnor.

The two principal climbs were Parkhouse Hill and then Chrome Hill. Both of these are really attractive and despite their relative low level, would not look out of place if relocated in the Lake District. The ascents are steep and grassy; the tops are narrow ridges with limestone outcrops and produced superb views of the surrounding area. The coffee break was

taken on the summit of Parkhouse Hill in a sheltered spot, accompanied by a lot of camera action from Jim and Hugh.

The descents were steep and made very difficult by the mud and greasy rock, not to mention the howling wind in the unsheltered spots. Clinging to tufts of grass made for fairly inelegant descending, but it was necessary, in order to keep upright and the party reached the lower ground intact.

The final climb was up to Tor Rock, the summit of which was not on the itinerary. Predictably, Jim decided to bag Tor Rock which was probably a once in a lifetime opportunity. Predictably, I also decided to join him.

We turned for home at this point and sought out a pleasant lunch spot, however we couldn't seem to escape the icy wind, so it was a fairly brief break before we headed off towards the village of Hollinsclough. This was little more than a hamlet and couldn't even boast a pub! We continued south east with more great views of the hills we had crossed earlier. A short section of tarmac road followed by the muddiest section of the day brought us back to Longnor, where we said farewell to Hugh and headed home to the Dysart.

There are no rules or codes of conduct yet established for the midweek walk, however I feel a healthy precedent has been set in the area of rehydration. This will hopefully encourage more members to scive off work for future outings. For the benefit of anyone who doesn't read the minutes of the meetings, these will be held on the last Friday of every month.

Mike A