

Trip Report: The Peak District**Date:** 30th November 2012**Group:** Jim G (Leader), Jim W, Jeff, Ann, Lynn & Selina**Route:** Lose Hill-Castleton-Navio Roman Fort**Total Distance:** 8.1 miles**Total Ascent:** 1420 ft**Weather:** Sunny and very cold**Time:** 4 hours 15 mins

The final squad of 6 assembled at the Pavilion for a 8 am departure, late withdrawal from Tony (desperate to improve his league position) was matched by the late inclusion of Ann (a desperate attempt to make the 2013 calendar). TomTom and Google Maps both predicted a journey time of 1 hour 30 mins from Bunbury to Hope, clearly they have both never heard off the M56/M60 or Stockport traffic! In the event it took 2 hours to reach our start point in the approach road to Hope Station. We set off in sunny but very cold and frosty conditions, perfect for a Friday winter walk. The first task is to cross the railway via the footbridge, this safely accomplished the Leader decides to mix his left with his right and sets off in the wrong direction. A smart arse remark from Jim W "why are we heading away from our objective?" follows a quick retracing of the squad onto the correct route. We cross back under the railway (Tony would have got very excited here!) and we can see our first objective, Lose Hill, straight ahead of us but the route is a complex mixture of fence stiles, squeeze stiles, wall step stiles and wicket gates across fields and meadows. The Leader copes admirably with this complex series of challenges and passing Crimea Farm we complete the short steep haul up to the summit of Lose Hill (476m) where we are rewarded with fantastic views to Mam Tor, Edale, Kinder Scout, Win Hill and the Hope cement works! The coffee break is taken here.

We head west along the ridge towards Hollins Cross and Mam Tor and after some photographic posing on Back Tor we turn down south off the ridge heading for Castleton. A bit of bushwhacking and the crossing of a barbed wire topped fence is required before reaching Only Grange Farm. After crossing a few fields, and passing the Hollowford Centre and a novel pulley-roof mechanism for the storage of bales, we enter the village of Castleton.

A quick stop at the public conveniences (the cleanest I have ever seen) we continue through Castleton avoiding any Christmas shopping (Jim W claims he has completed his only the day before) and passing the very

tempting looking Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese pub we locate the footpath alongside Peakshole Water.

We proceed along the path and as no suitable picnic site presents itself; we make do with a grassy spot to settle down for lunch, Selina making use of an upturned plastic bin to sit on; we have lovely meadow and river views plus of course the Hope cement works. The path now wends its way along side Peakshole Water and after crossing the cement works railway and skirting around Hope we arrive at Navio Roman Fort. There is not a lot to see other than a faint perimeter bank and a cluster of tooled stones at its centre; the fort was first established around AD75. We enter the village of Brough and then make our way back to the cars. After a brief discussion the drivers decide that we will ignore TomTom and Google Maps and head back over the tops to Macclesfield and Knutsford thus avoiding Stockport and the M56/M60 Friday night traffic shambles. This proves a winner and we are back in the Dysart for rehydration therapy by 4.20pm. We are joined by Lynn (Jeff's wife) Neil Bodfish, Jean and eventually Tony; for a couple of scoops in front of the roaring fire (we kept Selina away from it!)

Jim G