

Trip Report for walk on Friday 29th November.

Walk leader: Sarah

In attendance were Steve Hammond, Mike and Lesley Arrowsmith (who was a little under the weather), Debbie Sargent, Jeff Ewin, Bob Harris, Jim Grant, Dave Cadman, Ann Bodfish, Lynn Quinn, Andrea Percival, and Spot and Ellie.

So , after what has seemed like months of rain we were graced with a fantastic winters day for our walk with a hard frost, bright blue skies and no wind. After a short delay en-route due to traffic and icy roads all three cars arrived at Tittersworth Reservoir Car park, the start of the walk, in convoy.

With boots on , and in Dave's case , only just, as his were Gaffer taped together to help keep his feet dry, we headed back to the village of Meerbrook where we turned right up a quietish lane. This lane would take us roughly North and runs parallel with the Roaches, the destination for later in the day.

For the first 2.5 km's the route was either on road or hard track which made conversation easy. But all good things come to an end and so began the trudge through several very boggy fields.....but we didn't mind as the sun was shining and the views were great!

After crossing numerous styles our route began to climb up towards Buxton Brow and then Clough head. And with the dogs still on leads we decided to continue a little further onto sheep free land before having coffee. Suitably refreshed we headed roughly east on a narrow path which was still roughly parallel with the Roaches ridge line for 1km.

Our route now took us up over the Roaches ridge line and down towards Lud's Church. For those who want to know a little about Lud's church but can't be bothered to look at Wikipedia, this is what it says ; Lud's church is a deep chasm penetrating the millstone grit and was created by a massive landslide on the hillside above Gradbach. Lud's church has a place in Christian history and was a place of worship by the 'Lollards' in the 15th century, who at the time were being persecuted for their beliefs . It is thought to be named after either Walter de Ludank or Walter de Lud's-Auk who was captured there at one of their meetings.

After climbing through Lud's church we continued through Back wood where our route eventually contoured around and then climbed steeply up to the ridgeline. At this point we decided to continue along the ridgeline a short way to almost the highest point, where we stopped for lunch and to admire the fantastic views.

Once again suitably refreshed we continued on to the trig point for an obligatory group photo. From here we continued past Doxey pool where path repairs were taking place and then down and off the end of the Roaches. Continuing on we

quickly reached the top of Hen cloud from where we could see our end /start point. The descent off Hen cloud was a little slippery but we all negotiated safely. From here the route back involved a little more road and a few fields. After 5 hours walking we were all ready to get back to the Dysart for some much needed refreshment, which we did 1.5 hours later.

Sarah