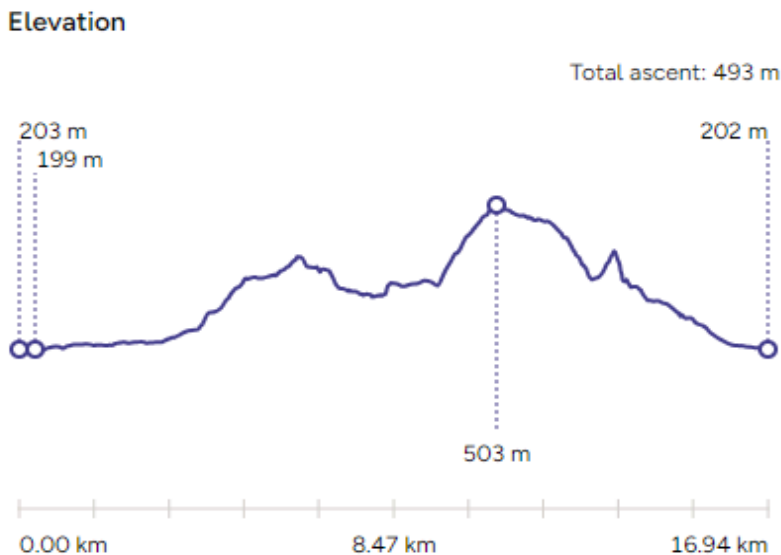


**Trip Report:** The Roaches and Lud's Church

**Date:** April 26th, 2024

**Group:** Steve (leader), Sarah, Anne, Fred, Christine, Dave, Chrissie, Janet, Sue L, Jim G, Mark, Iain (and our canine companion Pippa)

**Route Profile:**



**Total Distance:** 11.1 miles      **Total Ascent:** 493m (by OS map measurement)

A bright and sunny but chilly morning greeted the group of a dozen BUMS who gathered in the usual place for a drive over to the western edge of the Peak District for the latest classic walk. Despite some slight difficulties with finding the entrance to Tittesworth Reservoir all three cars arrived at the car park within a few minutes of each other and the occupants soon got booted up and ready.

We began the walk with about a mile on tarmac along a very quiet lane. After a brief chat with a Duke of Edinburgh group, headed in the opposite direction, we passed through a farmyard and found ourselves on a well surfaced stoney track that provided access to several remote properties. At one such house the track finished and our route took off across fields, which were a bit damp in places but not hopelessly muddy. The path climbed gradually, to Buxton Brow Farm, and then followed a bit of road and a long concrete driveway towards another farm, but our route branched off and headed up towards a rocky ridge offering good shelter from the northeast breeze. An ideal coffee stop! Suitably refreshed we followed a good sandy path along the ridge and soon descended to a junction with a signpost showing us the way to Lud's Church.

According to Wikipedia: *Lud's Church is a deep chasm penetrating the Millstone Grit bedrock created by a massive landslide on the hillside above Gradbach, Staffordshire.* (See more about the geological origins and history at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lud%27s\\_Church](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lud%27s_Church)).

Although the chasm was rather wet and slippery in places we all made it through without incident, and with a considerable number of photographs! The path then continued through woodland heading south towards the Roaches. With a threat of rain in the weather forecast a group decision was made to

take an early lunch at a convenient spot where a couple of trees had fallen. (Fortunately the lack of rain actually continued beyond the finish of the walk anyway, despite a few ominous clouds blowing over in the afternoon). Fueled up on post-lunch sweets - jelly babies and/or fruit pastilles - we made good progress after lunch in climbing steadily up to the highest point of the day which is marked by a trig point and has great views in all directions. We continued along the ridge of the Roaches for about a mile before dropping down to a low point between the Roaches and an adjacent hill called Hen Cloud. And 15 minutes later we were all at the top of Hen Cloud! We descended by a different route and the leader got confused, but only for a couple of minutes, and we soon reached the road. After about another mile - involving roads, fields and a track - we were back at the reservoir around 3pm, and particularly glad of the toilet facilities available to visitors!

Thanks to everyone in the group for contributing to a classic day out. And particular thanks also to Dave and Iain for driving and to all the photographers.



**Lud's Church**



**Hen Cloud**