

BUMs Trip Report

Friday 27th October 2023

Walkers: Lesley Arrowsmith (leader) Ann B, Cate, Chrissie, Jim, Bob, Mark, Gerry, Dave and Christine, Sarah and Steve

Venue: Castle Naze and Combs, Derbyshire

Stats: 7.8 miles, 2014 ft of ascent

Weather- Foggy

Route

This route was inspired by walk 26 in Robert Harris' book 'Walks in the ancient peak district'- I'm sure Bob may have copies to sell if anyone is interested – added to by our chairman, Richard Calder and managed by the leader with some help from Bob on the ground.

We left the pavilion carpark at 8:00 and drove for 1 hr 20 minutes to park up at Combs reservoir near Chapel-en-le-Frith. Despite my co navigator claiming car problems and therefore unavailable I had more than enough sub-navigators standing by, some a little too keen to take over but no names.

I held back the group for a short time as I had pre-arranged with my son Chris and fiancée Charlotte to meet up and they could do the first section around the reservoir, complete with baby Stevie. This worked out well apart from said first section being a squelchy mud fest and fears that Charlotte who was carrying baby Stevie might go head over heels. However sure-footed Charlotte kept going until we emerged at the south end of the reservoir and a choice of routes. Suffice it to say the leader had it right and we crossed a fine footbridge to emerge under the railway bridge ready for the climb towards Castle Naze. Chris and Charlotte and Stevie left us half way up the climb as Nellie the dog wasn't allowed on Castle Naze due to shooting rights in the area. Not before a photo to record the first ever 3-month-old on a BUMs walk was taken.

Upwards we went on a steep climb towards the ancient hillfort. Coffee taken sitting on the edge with a brief summary of activity from ancient times given by Bob.

We maintained the edge of the plateau which was people free until we met the shooting lodge where we stopped for lunch, sheltered by said lodge. Shame about the view being so clagged in but at least it didn't rain and perhaps added to the feeling of remoteness on the plateau. Although we couldn't see it Kinder Scout was not far from us and the edge was a very dark peak feel about it.

Down we started after lunch on a boggy (have I mentioned the bog yet?) path until we reached a track below the edges and with a look back, we noted the mist was clearing and Castle Naze could be seen in all its glory.

We cut the route short as going had been so slow in all the boggy paths and over a series of field paths and tracks we made it back to the reservoir and car park avoiding the mud round the reservoir.

There's a lot more to go at in this area, with good transport links and quiet hills, so I expect we shall see some better, mist free views next time.

Thanks for your company and navigational support.

Lesley