

Start at Errwood Hall car park. Leave the back of the car park at the information board heading for Errwood Hall. Continue on the track uphill, through the gap in the wall. 50 metres passed the *second* turnoff for Errwood Hall (at the two stone gate pillars), the area opens up and you will see a drystone ruin on your right next to the track. Three route options present from that point. Take the option straight ahead, where you will eventually enter an unnamed deep, steep and meandering clough. I have called that 'Unnamed Clough' on the map.

At the end of Unnamed Clough which is largely a sheltered clough in a wooded area, the area suddenly opens up again at 500m elevation on the moor. In sub-zero temperatures combined with a gale, it can take your breath away. A short stint then over moorland to join the main path along The Tors, connecting Shining Tor to Pym Chair. 2.3km of that main path is stone flagged for erosion-control purposes. Slippery in winter, with deep potholes either side. More care needed in snow. Dense mist can drop in minutes without warning.

NB: If you are ever returning by the same route, make a careful note of some feature on the main path where you turn off (maroon dot on the map - SJ 997 746 - Elev: 500m) so you know precisely where to leave the main path. It will not always be obvious, especially with snow on the ground. You can too easily end up struggling over the deep tussocks on the moor heading in the wrong direction. If you have GPS measure 975 metres from Shining Tor.

At the time of writing a long section of drystone wall *opposite* this path is completely absent. The only completely absent section on the Tors. The wire and post fence is relatively close and one post has an arrow carved into it. People have marked this path from time to time with a small cairn but someone else sabotages markers.

Follow the path to Shining Tor (SJ 994 737 – Elev: 559m), the highest point in Cheshire, then turn left for the distant gate, (SK 000 731 – Elev: 527m). Turn left at the gate then hug the drystone wall downhill leading to the next gate. Left again. Head down the straight track to the right turn, leading to Shooter's Clough.

Note the moorland Pond Number 2 just ahead of you (blue dot) before you turn right. That pond (SK 003 741 – Elev: 422m) is dripping with pond life including Odonata in season, which is relatively late at this elevation.

Continuing down the track, the terrain becomes very interesting and varied but the route is obvious back to where you started. A regular favourite with me, this varied and interesting route. It is good exercise and Unnamed Clough is ideal for insect hunting. On the climb to Shining Tor you may see the Golden Plover and Red Grouse in season.

Refreshed: 07.08.2024

Distance: 7.4km