

Start at the large red dot Bunsal Cob car park (SK17 6GJ – SK 018 756 – Elev: 301m). Take the adjacent gateway path (see image below) and head down the steep track between the moss covered drystone walls. Over the bridge (stay alert for Dragonflies seen hereabouts over the brook in season) and then up the steep tracks all the way.

You will meet Pond Number 6 on your left, 50 metres before the main A5004 road. The pond is not obvious and at the time of update seems to be vanishing. What will be obvious is the artificial rectangular reservoir on your right at the side of the track. The substantial moorland pond is on the opposite side of the track behind a slight hump in the terrain. Walk up that hump.

Continue to the gate at the main A5004 road. Cross the road and enter the public footpath opposite. Follow the grass tracks meandering up and over diagonally. These tracks worn and wide from agricultural vehicles, change direction. Way markers, finger posts and gates seen en-route. Continue through to White Hall. When you reach the rough-stone road junction at White Hall, continue on the adjacent track (called Old Road) and climb that steep road up to Pond Number 7 (SK 036 758 – Elev: 452m). Ignore way markers and signs, left and right, en-route to the top.

Wait until you see a gate and wooden stile with A notice referring to open-access land, on your left. There is also a small wood on your right. Climb over the stile on your left and turn right immediately, hugging the fence for 80 metres over this short and difficult terrain. You cannot miss this large pond which is artificial but ancient. In Odonata season you may end your day here and spend a lot of time exploring the pond, before retracing your steps to return by the same route.

Or, to complete the whole route, picking up Pond Number 1, continue on Old Road (eventually tarmac) back down to the A5004 and turn right to head back up the A5004, turning left at the well marked Goyt's Lane. This leads to Pond Number 1 that I call *The Pond* (SK 003 741 – Elev: 422m). Also known locally as 'The Old Steam Pond', then back down the steep Goyt's Lane to the Bunsal Cob car park.

Dense mist can descend quickly but not a route where you are at risk of blowing off course. I still recommend a compass if you have snow and dense mist, once you cross the A5004.

Reviewed and revised: 08.08.2024

Distance: 7.7km (GPS)

NB: As collapsed signage is usually absent for a long time I have people asking which is the correct path on this route at Bonsal Cob. Walk around the timber seen and down the path.

