

This route description starts at the Errwood Hall car park (large red dot) and travels anti-clockwise. The main part of the route is indicated by the red dots. This has become a firm favourite given all the diverse possibilities in all seasons.

It is a straight run along the tarmac to start, slightly uphill to the Pack Horse Bridge and Goytsclough Quarry. Passed the Pied Flycatchers in spring and you can opt for the Riverside path (Route 5) if you prefer, as this parallel path also leads to the Pack Horse Bridge / Goytsclough Quarry.

Over the Pack Horse Bridge and up the trail, taking the left fork further up the trail at the finger post. Keep going along the meandering and overgrown route with its narrow goat trail. The trail quickly becomes very boggy and care is needed to skirt around boggy parts.

There are a number of board walks on this route but lack of maintenance means they can be lethally slippery. Some have a significant drop at each end for want of steps. Best walk around some of those to avoid risk of jarring your joints, especially as you get older like me.

The trail eventually leads to a narrow gate you are obliged to pass through. The worst is then passed. Lots of running water to be seen from here on. Follow what is essentially a firm trail and note on the map the two main further path options to extend the route via The Pond.

The marked route leads to the hefty iron bridge over Wildmoorstone Brook (Grey Wagtails nest there every spring) where you swing round the hairpin towards the maroon dot which indicates what I call the bird tree. A tree festooned with bird feeders that anonymous people keep topped up.

From the bird tree you can follow the red dots on higher ground or take the downward trail which will also take you home via the shoreline of the Errwood Reservoir. Both options lead to Bonsal Cob.

From Bonsal Cob you are back on tarmac en-route to the Errwood Hall car park.

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Distance: 8km (GPS)