

Start at Errwood Hall car park (SK17 6GJ - SK 012 748 – Elev: 295m) and leave the front of the car park then turn left towards the causeway. At the junction leading to the causeway, either follow the road up the hill (called The Street) or take the detour (D1) across the grass towards the pedestrian gate (green dots on the map) which leads to the Fernilee Reservoir waterside route. Through that gate then take the left uphill track which emerges at the Hoo Moor / Goyt Forest vehicular access and pedestrian gate at The Street. D1 is an interesting option and in season, in the meadow part, the Chimney Sweeper Moth will be seen.

From the Hoo Moor / Goyt Forest gate carry on up The Street to Pym Chair keeping an eye open for Moths and Butterflies on all the vegetation. This includes the Green Hairstreak Butterfly (early season) on the Bilberry.

As you approach Pym Chair take a left at the fingerpost to follow the footpath up and over, leading to Shining Tor. Keep an eye open for Common Lizards en-route as well as Red Grouse and the Golden Plover in season.

The blue dot on the map indicates a short-cut option en-route should you need it. A rugged option full of insects and very sheltered once you reach the deep and narrow unnamed clough. Worth knowing about this option in winter. This option at SJ 997 746 – Elev: 500m and is very easily missed. People sometimes build small cairns to mark the junction but it seems others routinely disturb these markers. Footprints may be visible at times. At that point the drystone wall opposite is completely absent for a 10 metre stretch. A wooden post in the wire fence has an arrow carved into it, pointing the way.

Once you reach Shining Tor (SJ 994 737 – Elev: 559m) the second highest Cheshire peak is in view in the distance (Shutlingsloe). Turn left at Shining Tor, following the drystone wall to the gateway which is visible in the distance during pretty weather (at SK 000 731 – Elev: 527m), Common Lizard also spied there in the wall. Through the gateway turn left to follow the footpath downhill, hugging the tall drystone wall until you reach the next gateway.

Turn left through the gateway and follow the track down hill. This path ultimately emerges at two stone pillars. See yellow dot on map which also indicates the moorland pond close to the pillars (SK 003 741 – Elev: 422m). Close but easily missed. A small but rich pond (Number 2) with typical pond life including Newts, Damselflies and Dragonflies.

Follow the undulating path down hill from the pillars, crossing a brook en-route which can become deep and fast at certain times of the year. The whole area a rich and interesting habitat. You finally emerge close to Errwood Hall and the route back to the car park.

Caution: Be advised parts of this route can be challenging in Winter months.

Last Checked and Revised: 08.08.2024

Distance: 10.75km (GPS)