

This route navigates around a section of the Goyt River. The section after the end of the Fernilee Reservoir. It begins at the marked (red P square) car park on the map A at BNG reference: SK 014 777 or Satnav SK23 7HB. The description below follows my preferred clockwise option. The way in off the A5004 and unmarked.

The route is far from flat and for the most part you are totally immersed in diverse nature, trees and undergrowth on well established footpaths. You will need to be fully mobile. There is plenty of contact with running water throughout.

As the route is fiddly and given the absence of way markers where they are most needed, an extra map B is provided. Taxal Church (yellow dots) switch to map B.

This route could be an obvious extension of Route 2 to deliver a 14km route (from Errwood Hall Car Park) which I adopted on my first visit. I did the route 23 only the day after to collect more data and images. An interesting route with lots of potential in my insect season.

Map A: Cross the Fernilee Reservoir causeway, bear left and up the metalled road to Oldfield Farm, turning right to pass by the farm (that is the Midshires Way). At the time of writing the availability of toilets is signposted (new). Pass through a gate that is usually closed, to the *next set* of farm buildings. Turn right at the jaded fingerpost.

Drop down hill through the farm yard and muddy horse trails, keeping left at all times until you hit the stone stile (difficult – care needed) over the drystone wall.

Turn left on the roadway then shortly after turn right down the steep grassy bank, *before the gateway across the road* leading to a house. The grassy bank leads to a pedestrian gate in the drystone wall.

Turn left then keep left and follow the path to a gate, then down the obvious trail. This trail leads to a footbridge and timber stiles. You also reach a footbridge over the River Goyt (you will pass this again later). Just before the bridge, take the gate on the left into Hillbridge Nature Reserve which is carpeted with Bluebells in spring. This leads to another gate and an obvious trail across an open meadow to a road. The road drops down to St. Jame's Church (aka. Taxal Church).

Now map B: Turn right down the narrow metalled road *before the church*. That leads to a ford across the River Goyt. Take the path to the left of the ford, which leads to a footbridge.

There are no way markers here at the time of writing. Turn right immediately after the bridge, in the direction of the River. Then swing left (blue dot on the map) and up the steep and rocky trail to a way-marked pedestrian gate *on your right*. Through the gate and follow the trail.

Bear right at the fork on the trail to follow the down trail parallel to the river. Back to map A: Follow the path back to the car park.

Revised and updated: 10.08.2024

Distance: 6.5km (GPS)