

Lamaload Reservoir – Route One (anti-clockwise)

A short description is Lamaload Reservoir to Shining Tor (Goyt Valley) and back again. But it is more than that. Carrying my usual 14kg above body weight plus too many years wear and tear, this for me is a stiff route now. Yet especially favoured in winter and snow. Splendid views and atmosphere at any time.

As confirmed by the OS map contours, the initial stiff climb changes to a longer, flatter and curved route before climbing again up to the Tors (Goyt Valley). The footpath finally emerges at a signpost (3.25 km) only 100 metres or so from Shining Tor. You can either return by the same direct route or swing through King's Clough and passed Redmoor Farm. The detour only adds 1.25km but that is also a stiff route in either direction.

Always a quiet route in my experience, especially so on the detour. Unless familiar with the route, the detour best avoided in dense mist or deep snow. The area is also popular with the Brown Hare, which cut a swathe through to Wildboardclough from here.

For Satnav use Hooleyhey Lane SK10 5XL. Base camp (30px red dot on the map) is the spacious car park (SJ 972 750 – Elev: 308m) or a nearby lay-by on the same side if the car park is closed. If the car park is ever closed for maintenance (rarely) the site is not closed and public footpaths are still fully accessible.

Turn right out of the car park and start the route at the nearby gate/stile/signpost on your left. Historically the early part of the route has been a sea of mud but you can step up on to higher ground at the side of the path. Unusually at the time of writing the initial route bone dry. The wood on the right has lately seen felling of Larch Trees where Red Deer could be seen trying to hide once upon a time.

Follow the 15px black dots to Shining Tor (SJ 994 737 – Elev: 559m). Double back to the 30px black dot (way markers – SJ 989 740 – Elev: 469) and (if you wish) follow that alternate route via King's Clough and Redmoor. The alternate route track is largely well defined but not always. Far too fiddly to describe in detail. It would be too easy to drift off course so the maxim is to err left if in doubt. Keep the well defined water course on your right. There are way markers and multiple options so err left.

The orange dots offer a change. If you do wander off course you must hit the road at some point and can swing back to the starting point.

This can be a tiring route and is most certainly not a walk in the park, especially in snow.

Direct route (GPS) = 6.8 km
Longer route (GPS) = 8.1 km

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No images to be provided for this route as the main features are illustrated elsewhere on the website (landscapes).