

Prince's Wood lies between and connects two venues. Jackson's Brickworks (Local Nature Reserve) and Poynton Park (Lake). Both venues maintained by Rangers on behalf of Cheshire East Council. Good car parking at both Poynton Park and Jackson's Brickworks but none between in the historical coal-authority owned areas.

SK12 1TY delivers the Jackson's Brickwork's substantial metalled car park (40px blue dot) and SK12 1BS delivers the substantial but discreet Poynton Park car park on South Park Drive. The Prince's Wood area contains numerous natural ponds. A surprisingly rich habitat which does not feature on the Cheshire East Council (CEC) list of Countryside Sites. It is criss-crossed with footpaths and dotted with woodland.

For the purposes of this route description we are parking at Jackson's and walking this flat and easy route anti-clockwise. Boots still recommended as mud will always be encountered in some parts.

Take the path through Jackson's passed the ponds (you will return this way later). Walk through Jackson's to the Middlewood Way. Turn left, passed a small pond and walk under the bridge to the next bridge. Climb the steps at the bridge and turn left. Cross a minor metalled road and carry on to a main road (light blue dot). Cross the main road and follow the right hand option footpath sign, up the narrow passage at the side of a house.

Through the metal wicket gate and turn left along the well worn grass path. Passed a pond, wicket gate and boardwalk, through to the next large pond on your left. En-route you will pass Gorse bushes and in season you may spot Dragonflies resting (female Broad-bodied Chasers camouflaged on the Gorse).

Keep going straight and fork right at the nearby finger post (with four fingers) along the rough track through a narrow wooded corridor. Over the wooden stile to the next track and turn left. You are now walking on old reinforced concrete panels. Walk to the finger post and take the right path through what is left of an old wrought iron gate. You are now at the side of a stream. Well groomed grass on your right which presumably belongs to the house seen in that area at a some distance away.

Carry on the track, through a metal wicket gate then the area opens up. The track takes you straight through gates and across fields (farmland with sheep and/or cows). At the T junction turn left to Towers Farm, through the gates at the muddy farm yards. Once passed the farm fork right hugging the fence all the time to the metal wicket gate at Anglesey Drive.

Turn right at Anglesey Drive then left at the footpath sign parallel to the main road. Continue along the footpath across a minor road, through a small car park and alongside Poynton Lake. Hug the perimeter of the lake until you hit South Park Drive. Turn left onto South Park Drive then right along the unmetalled Anglesey Drive. NB: The Black-tailed Skimmer Dragonfly may be seen in-season on the path at the open side of Poynton Lake. A good place also to shoot Damselflies at a convenient height.

Left shortly after through the wicket gate and *keep going to the bunch of nine trees*. The red-dot there indicates dangerous swamp. Turn right at the trees and follow the visible path between the two bodies of water (red-dot - excellent spot for Dragonflies in season). Turn left passed the ponds and keep going straight through various gates to return you back to the light blue spot. Retrace your steps back to Jackson's. Once back at Jackson's you can explore there for Dragonflies at your leisure and there is plenty to explore. Allow plenty of time at Jackson's.

Distance (GPS): 10.1km - Created: 28.03.2022