

Images are arranged in route order, whether or not the images were shot on the same day. An arrow on any image indicates the shooting direction for the image concerned, when not in the direction of travel. That could be facing backwards down the trail or any other direction. This helps resolve the issue of shooting into the sun. The main purpose of this document is to capture an impression of route characteristics, so people can make choices based on the information. It is not intended to be an independent illustrated route guide or a portfolio of landscape images.

Warning: For the first time in 2022 a notice was published on a gate on Piggford Moor (unidentified origin), stating that from the gate onwards (blue dots on the map), the moor would remain closed during the whole month of May. That snag is that anyone following at least one officially published route guide known to me, could have completed more than 80% of their journey only to be turned back. This represents inconsiderate behaviour as due notice is demanded at all potential main access points around Piggford Moor; common decency and common sense.



The starting point using this guide. Well marked on-street parking spaces just passed the Rangers' office and formal pay-and-display car park. There are well marked on-street spaces in the other direction as well.



Always pass the first gate shown in the text guide and take the next seen above. Only that route leads to pond number one, which is home to a number of Odonata species.



On the delightful trail through the trees.



Pond number one. Odonata species tend to occupy the areas on the left of the image where there is more vegetation. Pond also frequented by dogs but they tend to stay on the right of the image.



This open area and the fencing will be seen on the left as you progress up the trail. This sunny spot is frequented by a host of different Butterflies in season. Delightful area.



A view from the vantage point at which seating is available. Just passed the vantage point on the left, stretches of drystone wall where the Common Lizard (*Lacerta vivipara*) has been recorded by me.



Shutlingsloe in your sights.



Pond number two and a fairly new pond, yet to become established. That spot is however another place to which diverse Butterflies seem unusually attracted in season. A little sun trap.



The gated access to Piggford Moor. Common Lizards have been recorded close by. This is the paved climb towards Shutlingsloe.



Looking back down the trail towards the gate.



The Green Hairstreak Butterfly (*Callophrys rubi*) has been recorded by me several times on this stretch of the route. There is some Bilberry but not much: April 29



Further up the trail on the (erosion control) flags.



The gate ahead of you in the drystone wall leading to Shutlingsloe. Note there is a trail off to the right (fitted with hard-to-see green erosion control matting) about 50 metres before the gate. That route changes to stones (of the drystone wall type) and is roughly parallel to the drystone wall. The trail veers off to the right just before the climb to Shutlingsloe and that route is marked by way markers on 1.2 metre high posts.

If you take the Shutlingsloe option it is far less daunting than it might appear at first. It is actually quite short the last steep bit. However, be advised that the very crude steps leading to the top are very high and rough steps which may present some people with difficulties.

I have known people at risk coming down in snow. Safest to move close to the drystone wall and walk down steadily in the gutter where the wall meets the ground.



On the top of Shutlingsloe and a view North off the top of the triangulation point.



A view South off the top of the triangulation point.



A view East off the top of the triangulation point.



A view West off the top of the triangulation point.



Shutlingsloe triangulation point.



Heading back down the trail to the gate and Piggford Moor.



On the well established Piggford Moor goat trail (as I call it).



Looking back at Shutlingsloe.

You are approaching the gate where the May restrictions apply. Also on this stretch, before the next image, you will pass where pond number three used to be (still identified by the remains of a barbed wire fence). This pond vanished overnight (literally) owing to a land slip into Sheeps Clough Gutter (shown on the OS map). At the same point you will cross a boardwalk where I have recorded the Black Darter Dragonfly (*Sympetrum danae*).

Ephemeral ponds appear from time to time but some traces often remain and may deliver species of interest.



Dropping down to the road and towards Heron Cragg. Common Lizard seen at the side of that metalled road (tarmac). I have also seen unusual numbers of Raptors hovering there at times. Plenty of drystone wall and Bilberry on this route.



Back off the road en-route to Oakenclough. A lot of work has been done in this area (conservation). I have recorded the Black Darter Dragonfly (*Sympetrum danae*) on this route nearer to pond number four.



Pond number four at Oakencloough which is not accessible but that does not matter of course. It is on the margins next to the public footpath where you should look for Odonata species parking up.



Opposite the Oakencloough gate is the climb to pond number 5. I have recorded several Black Darter Dragonflies on the wall through the gate in pretty weather. It seems to hold some attraction as a sun trap.



Looking back over Oakenclough and pond number four.



Pond number five and a poor image which does not do it justice. Too much sun to point the lens where I needed to. Well stocked with Odonata species including Chasers, Hawkers and Darters plus Damselflies. I have recorded the delightful Emerald Damselfly here.



The final long path down to the Hanging Gate Inn (now open again). This stretch is heaving with insects in pretty weather. Massively overgrown and a delight to walk the route.

Once you hit the metalled road, the route is heaving with roadside vegetation all the way back to the start. That includes Bilberry. All roadwork now.

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