

Wildboardclough – Route Three

Start at the T junction of Nabs Road, Clough Road and the road leading to Crag Hall (SK11 0BD). You can park at that T junction where there is a substantial off-street car park under the huge cliff face. The name of the road leading to Crag Hall is not listed on any local authority sourced map. The large red dot on the map indicates the suggested car park. There are also formal and safe designated lay-bys nearby on Nabs Road.

Climb the road leading to Crag Hall, passing the Old Post Office and St. Saviour's Church until you reach the A54. Opposite this road you will see a stile leading to the public footpath. This route includes narrow gates and stiles, together with wooden way markers en-route (Birchenough Hill).

After the first gate the substantial footpath changes to a sheep trail through the grass. You will soon start to descend following way markers. On this section there is a small but long-established moorland pond (blue dot 1) at SJ 997 670 – Elev: 304m. Large Red Damselflies in abundance here. Plenty more water hereabouts as well.

Continuing you will spot a stone barn in the distance downhill. At a fork in the sheep trail take the right path leading down to the stone barn. Pass through the gates at the barn and join the metalled farm road, turning right. That road leads to a public highway (through the gateway) where you also turn right.

Walk uphill passing Midgley Gate Farm and Burntcliffe Top, both on the left. Continuing you will next pass a home on your right. At that home you will see a prominent gate and a public footpath leading back over Tagsclough Hill.

On this route at SJ 985 673 – Elev: 394m you will see a marshy area forming a small pond (blue dot 2) which interrupts a groundwater source. This pond is home to the Common Darter Dragonfly at least. Further along this route on Tagsclough Hill I spotted the Common Lizard for the first time in April 2022.

As you approach the A54 again you will see a finger post and a yellow grit bunker. Pass between the two down to the stile. Cross the A54 and take the stile opposite. Follow the path to the trees and derelict farm buildings. Walk around the main farm cow shed structure (to avoid the mud), bear left to the gateway in the corner. This area often very muddy.

Pass through the gateway and move diagonally across the field then through a gap in the drystone wall. Then veer left diagonally to the corner of the wooded area. Follow the edge of the wood until you stumble on a wayside display of produce containing refreshments for sale (supplied by Berry Bank Farm).

Continue to the drystone wall and over the stepping stone stile. Turn right down the always-muddy track to the gate. Look left and you will see a small wooden footbridge / boardwalk. Take that footbridge then head in a straight line for the trees to navigate the footpath back to Nabs Road leading to the car park.

Route (GPS) = 7.4km

Updated: 20.04.2022

NB: No images file to be produced for this short route.