

Wildboardclough – Route Four (anti-clockwise)

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 a marked public footpath going uphill on your left. That leads to an early gate and a grass track which includes boardwalks, leading to a stone barn and the A54.

Cross the stiles on both sides of the A54. Follow the well established grass track, passing over three boardwalks, fashioned from parallel timber beams, until you reach a way-marked wooden stile. Remember, boardwalks signal boggy ground and the presence of Odonata species, especially Black Darters.

After the stile follow the well established grass track at an angle of about 45 degrees to the wall. If not misty you may see a grouse butt on your right marked number nine. Continue on the track passed a way marker on a short pole downhill en-route to Cut-thorn Farm. At the farm exit the way-marked small gate onto the road. Turn right along the road then immediately left through the gate showing vehicle restrictions. This is the sand, sandstone pebbles and boulders path which leads all the way to Three Shire Heads.

Do not cross the bridge at Three Shire Heads, continue upwards along the same track as before. When you arrive at the small bridge and way-marked gate, continue through the gate (do not turn right over the stile). Follow the grass track keeping the fence on your right, to the next way-marked gateway and turn left without passing through the gateway. Keep the wall on your right.

At the top of the rise, with the wall on your right, turn right through the way-marked gate. Keeping the wall on your right, go through the next way-marked gate, pass through a gap in a wall and you may (if not misty) then be able to see a very tall metal ladder-stile leading to the A54. Cross the field to the stile at an angle of 45 degrees. Turn left on the A54.

Turn right up the sand track, through the way-marked gate with vehicle restrictions off the A54. Follow the very well established track through eventually to what appears to be a bridge with a waterfall. There is a way-marked gate to your left. Go through the gate and continue back to Clough House farm and car park. From Clough House follow the road back to the T junction.

Warning: The parts of the route marked with blue dots are frequented by groups of motorcyclists on dirt bikes.

Route (GPS) = 7.7km

Revisited: 26.04.2022

NB: 17.05.2022 New pond added. See blue dot on the map.