

This route has been completely rebuilt. There were parking issues and the map now includes two parking choices. The original one at Gradbach (SK17 0SU - SJ 999 662) and a new one, a formal lay-by on the A54. Both depicted by 20 px red dots. The Gradbach formal car parking area is tiny and less easy to access. Usually full unless you get there early. I am now working from the lay-by on the A54. In this case walking clockwise. There is actually more than one lay-by within reach on the A54 road.

An interesting, compact and yet diverse route. I had forgotten how interesting it can be. Parking put me off. Now it does not and I actually prefer the new route configuration. You will need to employ map reading skills for this one and the map supplied does the job. To describe the route more precisely could take multiple pages. A number of path options converge where they need to.

Walk back to the green dot from the lay-by and cross the stile to the path which includes boardwalks. This stretch shared with another route (Four). Cross the minor road then take the gate to join the path leading to Three Shire Heads.

Over the bridge at Three Shire Heads and loop back to follow the path to the four-way finger post depicted by the large black dot. Different paths lead to the same spot. Take the finger post route indicating Gradbach from the four-way post.

Navigate through the farm and you can joint the road shown or take the few steps to the Gradbach car park then follow the footpaths from there back to the road. You go through an elevated tiny gate off the bend in the road next to a house.

Follow the track and the stiff climb through interesting undergrowth, leading back to the moor and the start. The blue dot represents a useful moorland pond (SJ 996 682 – Elev: 418m). Vegetation evidence suggests it could be productive in Odonata season.

NB: With this route you will find yourself relying more on visual cues such as footpath trails, gates and stiles in the distance, in order to stay on the right path. In dense mist navigation may become an issue.

Route (GPS) = 9.2km

Reposted: 17.05.2022