

Eastern Moors Trail Card

Eastern Moors



Photo: © Graham Thorpe

9

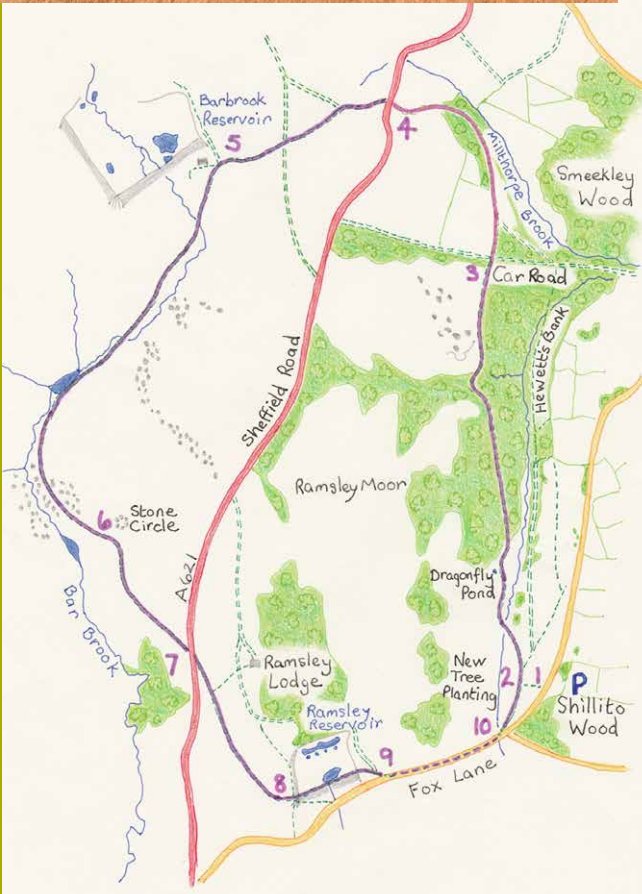
Ramsley & Big Moor Stride

8km (5 miles),
2¾ hrs approx

Saunter through wooded valleys and stride out across open moorland landscapes discovering fascinating hints of the moorlands' past.

Terrain

Following tracks and paths, muddy in places with stiles to cross. Uneven ground and undulating landscape with one short and steep ascent and descent.



Map: © Celia Birch



LOTTERY FUNDED

Ramsley & Big Moor Stride

Start: Shillito Wood car park

1 ▶ Leave the car park by crossing the road to Ramsley Moor. Go through the gate and drop down the bank, crossing the first path, to the main track at the bottom.

2 ▶ Turn right and follow what will soon become a wide track, all the way to the end. When passing through the woodland look out for the aptly named horse-shoe fungus growing on the silvery-white gnarled bark of the silver birch trees. ▶ At the end of the track go through a wooden gate onto Car Road which is a rough track.

3 ▶ Go straight over Car Road and over a wooden stile. Follow the path until you meet the main road.

4 ▶ Cross the main road and follow the tarmac drive towards Barbrook Cottage. This was originally the reservoir keeper's house, later becoming the shepherd's home, now the office for the Eastern Moors Partnership. Behind the cottage is Barbrook Reservoir, which once supplied north Chesterfield with half a million gallons of water a day but was decommissioned in 2003.

5 ▶ Just before the gate entrance to Barbrook Cottage, turn left along Barbrook Valley track. The Bar Brook is home to a healthy population of water voles and flows through a tranquil pond locally known as Little Barbrook. A short distance after the pond keep a look out for the guide stoop on the horizon on the other side of the stream. Guide stoops have been used for centuries to guide people across what would have been an inhospitable landscape, from cities to market towns such as Sheffield to Tideswell. ▶ After the companion stone the track will bend left, and after a short while bend right.

6 ▶ It is on this bend that you can make a short detour left on a trodden path

that takes you to a stone circle and an accompanying cairn, and a little further along, a second stone circle. Known as Barbrook I and II, the stone circles are part of wider Bronze Age settlements and field systems.

7 ▶ At the end of the track, cross the main road and enter Ramsley Moor.

8 ▶ Follow the track to Ramsley Reservoir where you can go through the wooden gate and walk across the old dam wall. Ramsley reservoir, built in 1880 and decommissioned in 2003, is a wetland haven for wildlife including common lizard and grass snakes. ▶ Follow the short path back to the road.

9 ▶ Turn left, following the road until you reach the bend.

10 ▶ Turn left through the gate onto Ramsley Moor. Follow the bridleway back to point 2. Turn right and head up the bank on the trodden grass path until you reach the gate at the top. Go through the gate, cross the road and return to Shillito Wood car park.

Take the Lead in the Peak District

The Eastern Moors Partnership welcomes responsible dog walkers. Please keep your dog on a lead near livestock and keep to paths from March until August to protect ground nesting birds. Please clean up after your dog, use the bins provided or take it home. Thank you for keeping the Eastern Moors special for people and wildlife.

Contact us

Email: enquiries@easternmoors.org.uk

Call: 0114 2891543

Visit: www.visit-eastern-moors.org.uk