

Tiny Treks - Etherow Country Park & Nature Reserve

Start: Etherow Country Park Visitor Centre, George St, Compstall, Stockport SK6 5JD.

Facilities: Toilets, Parking (pay and display), Visitors centre, (open Wed, 1400-1600, Thu-Sun, 1000-1600). Cafe, open daily, 1000-1700. Closed 25th Dec.

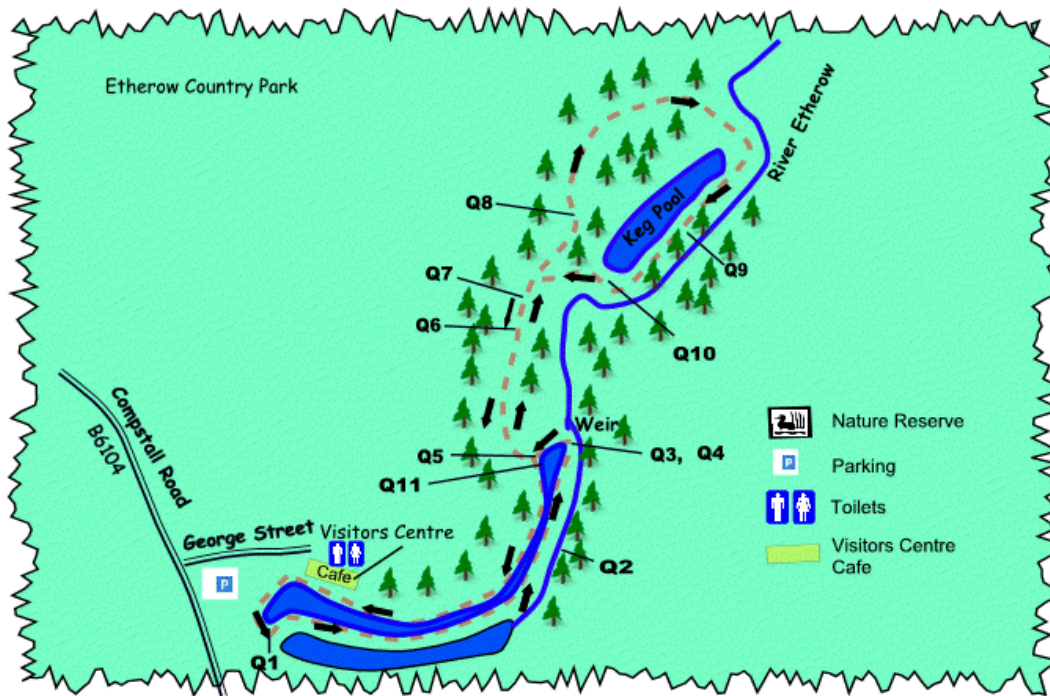
Walk: Approx. 1.5 miles (1 hrs) or 2.5 miles (3 hrs).

Walk instructions

Call in at the visitors centre and see some of the things that you might look for on the walk.

Bring some bird food to feed the birds.

1. From the car park walk away from the visitors centre across the front of the lake. Take the path at the far end of the car park that goes in between the two lakes **(Q1)**.
2. Continue along this path until you see a wooden platform that once had an information board about ERNCROFTWOOD **(Q2)**.
3. On reaching the Weir **(Q3, Q4)** turn left towards Weir cottages.  Keg Wood and Sunny Corner. Across the lane from Weir Cottage there is a small garden cared for by the "Friends of Etherow".
4. Spend some time looking around the Friends of Etherow Sensory Garden **(Q5)**.
5. Short walk return to Visitors Centre as sign posted. Go to point 12.
6. Longer Walk Leaving the garden continue up the hill to the rear of the cottage following the well defined path  Keg Wood and  Sunny Corner.
7. Follow this tarmac path towards **(Q6)** John Hirst Cottage. At John Hurst Cottage **(Q7)** the path changes from tarmac to gravel. You will pass Sunny Corner Bird Hide **(Q8)**. The path starts to descend towards Keg pool.
8. At Keg pool you will see a large carved information board with the pool behind. Paths go left and right.
9. Take the path to the left. This path runs in between the river Etherow to the left and Keg pool to the right **(Q9)**.
10. At the end of Kegs pool (passing the Kingfisher Wooden Sculpture **Q10**). The path starts to ascend and splits. Take the left path, which leads you through a tunnel made of rhododendrons and gradually reaches the main path.
11. At the main path turn left and retrace your steps to Weir cottages (5 above).
12. On reaching Weir cottages a  clearly shows the return route **(Q11)** to the car park and visitors centre.



Activity Sheet / Walk Diary

We went on our walk on (date).....,
with.....

Some things to look for and do on your walk.

Q1. You may see some of the following birds can you see on your walk?


☐

Canadian Snow Goose


☐

Mandarin Ducks


☐

Heron


☐

Robin


☐

Tree Creeper

Q2.  A wooden viewing platform on the right - If you look carefully opposite you can see a brick wall. Across the river is ERNCROFT WOOD and the brick wall was part of a bridge that took coal trams.



Q3.  A weir ☐.

When you get to the weir count how many steps there are, taking the water down the River? _____

Q4. On your walk see if you can find out the name of the river? _____

Q5. Visit Friends of Etherow Sensory Garden.

Find "Billy Bees Top tips".  How many "Top tips did you find"? _____



Q6.  ☐ Keg Woodland Nature Reserve. ☐



Q7.  ☐ John Hirst Cottage. ☐



Q8.  ☐ Sunny Corner Bird Hide. ☐ Sit there quietly. Look and listen.
You will be surprised how many different birds and creatures you see.

Q9.  ☐ Look for a Heron that spends a lot of time in this area. ☐



Q10.  ☐ . Look for a carved Kingfisher that's at the other end of Kegspool.



Q11.  ☐ .

This might be difficult to find.
It's a coal barge that's been left behind.
It's near the sensory garden across the lane waiting for you,
Although it's a little out of view!

Return to the car park - Its not very far away.

Some information about Etherow Country Park

Etherow Country Park was one of Britain's first country parks. Established in 1968 around an old cotton mill.

Etherow Country Park was once part of the estate of George Andrew, who built Compstall mill in the 1820's. Compstall village was for his mill workforce. The waterways were also built by Andrew to carry water from the weir on the river to turn the mill wheel, which stood where the car park is today.

Andrew liked shooting and fishing. He would use Keg woods and pool as his own private shooting and fishing grounds.

Tawny Owls frequently hunt in the Keg woodlands. The area is rich in wildlife and over 200 species of plants and more than a hundred species of birds have been recorded at Etherow.