



SID & FLOSS's EASY- GOING WALKS **THE OBER WATER TRAILS.**

Sat nav. coordinates N 50.49.20 W 01.36.44
Ordnance Survey coordinates SU 274 026

The marked Ober Water Trails start from Whitefield Moor car park, which is 3km. (2 miles) due west of Brockenhurst village. They are two circular easy-going walking trails. The Trails go along a beautiful stretch of the Ober Water river under the trees on a good gravel path; then they both cross over the river and return over the open Whitefield Moor on a firm, grass surface.

FACILITIES. Whitefield Moor is a large open grassy area ideal for family games and picnics.
Car park – 2 blue badge spaces.

LENGTH The **Yellow** Trail is 1.6 km. (1 mile)
 The **Red** Trail is 2.4 km. (1.5 miles).

OBSTACLES. All 3 bridges need a little care. **The Ober Water is liable to flooding in the winter and some of these paths may be impassable, particularly across the bog area.** The marked Trails return along the edge of the Whitefield Moor. They have a significant crossfall for much of their length and are not recommended. The Moor is a domed hill on the side nearest the Ober Water river and you may find it easier to pick your own route across the grass (see map).

THE YELLOW TRAIL – **Yellow** way markers - Difficulty level 3

SID says: Immediately after the Puttles Bridge there is a tight 90 degree turn just after the down slope. There is a path alongside the car park, but it has a significant crossfall at the far end of the car park. At bridge **B** there is a lovely view of the river and the only seat on the Trail. After the bridge there is a 12% slope for 3 metres off the bridge and 2 concrete outcrops although it is possible to pass to the side of them. The Trail returns on a good path through an interesting bog area. To climb back onto the Moor choose a route which suits you; the faster you climb the less the crossfall. The maximum slope is just over 10%.

THE RED TRAIL - **Red** way markers - Difficulty level 4.

SID says: The Red Trail continues to the bridge **C**. The gravel has worn away at the far side and there is a 4cm. step off the bridge. Just beyond the bridge, a path to the right goes back very close to the river bank and is well worth a detour for views of the river. This is a good path which continues for some distance until it reaches a culvert. After this the path deteriorates with tree roots and muddy areas, and there is no exit at the other end for wheelchairs. When you return over the Moor, if you keep south toward the road, the surface is much more level and you avoid the valley (see map).

PUTTLES BRIDGE WALK – Difficulty level 2

SID says - If you want to avoid too many slopes you can start from the Puttles Bridge car park and walk along the river woodland route, retracing your steps. There are no facilities at this car park.

For more information on the Ober Water Trails go to the Forestry Commission website.
www.forestry.gov.uk/newforest or the National Park Authority website www.newforestnpa.gov.uk

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