



One of the most productive areas of the entire site are these few small grass fields. Lying just to the north of and at the bottom of Mast Road, they are an absolute must view, especially as there are two lay-byes to pull your car into if you are not on foot (which frankly is to be advised so you miss nothing!). The fence line along here has Stonechat more often than not plus occasional Whinchat. The fields themselves have attracted Redstart, Black Redstart, Twite, Ring Ouzel and often hold good numbers of pipits. Wilderswood can once again clearly be seen in the background.



The car park along Mast Road by the first cattle grid has very limited parking indeed. Should it be full, seek parking along Georges Lane or in the Wilderswood car park and enjoy the walk back up! Under no circumstances should you drive beyond this first cattle grid as the road is private from there on in though it is permissible and entirely encouraged to walk beyond there however. The fields at the bottom of Mast Road and Wilderswood beyond them can still be seen at the right on the image.



Wildersmoor viewed from Mast Road. A moor seemingly full of juncus, it has been very productive for Hen Harriers over the years plus the occasional Merlin. Once again Wilderswood is to the left (with Lower Rivington Reservoir beyond it) and Rivington Pike to the right.



Two Lads Hill. An excellent viewpoint on a clear day with the Welsh mountains and even the Lake District possible to see. The area just over the other side of the hill has held Dotterel.



Adams Hill, just off to the south of Mast Road. The moor here is excellent for Red Grouse and they often sit out on the stone wall running horizontally across the photo. The moor here is also productive for Wheatear and Whinchat, plus it can be full of Meadow Pipits in autumn especially.



The view from Winter Hill looking south across the county and over towards the Fiddler's Ferry power station in the distance. The very top of Winter Hill here can produce some surprising sightings, including falls of warblers and Spotted Flycatchers amongst the small saplings found in the fenced off areas (which cannot be devoured by sheep!) for the cables holding the mast aloft. Ring Ouzel, Twite, Snow Bunting and Lapland Bunting have been found on the very tops here and Wheatears can be seen in occasional good numbers. Visible migration can be visible (!), from the tops during the right seasons and weather conditions and can include surprising species you might not normally expect to be seen crossing bleak moorland at such altitude. It should be borne in mind however just how close you are to the border between Greater Manchester and Lancashire here. The buildings around the mast are in fact in the latter county though often attract Black

Redstarts which can be prove very elusive.



Andy Makin 'seeding' one of the sheep impenetrable mast cable enclosures on the very top of Winter Hill, one which resides in Greater Manchester I hasten to add. The next enclosure along behind him is in Lancashire!

Ian McKerchar, December 2009 (revised October 2010)

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