

Cleopatra Highmoor 12 July 2026

Led by Dusty Shaw

Total ascent 258m

Severity 2

Weather Misty/Cloudy



The drive up to Highmoor was misty, cold and generally not looking particularly promising. We had all been hoping that the weather would clear, as the forecast had confidently predicted a break in the conditions after 10:00. As usual the weather forecast and reality appeared to disagree.

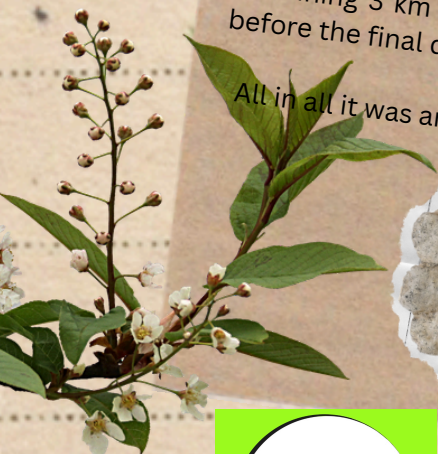
We all met at the office, paid our dues then headed up to the campsite where the hike start was. The usual do's and don'ts were covered, with a few apprehensive looks as all pondered whether this was about to be a hike or a long walk through the cloud.

We set off on the northern side of the ridge, making our way through thick grass and game trails of old jeep tracks. The tracks had slowly eroded over the years, but were still just visible enough to give the legs a short break from the more serious business of walking uphill. Every now and again the mist would lift, giving us a quick glimpse of the mountains on the opposite side of the valley where the entry point to Highmoor is and the mountains appeared to be playing hide-and-seek. With temperatures rising as the morning progressed, the mist finally began to disappear as we approached the eastern side of the valley and a combination of sunrays, mountains and clouds provided a group photo opportunity before the curtains closed once more. Continuing on the eastern edge we disturbed a flock/kettle of around 25 vultures, that circled above our group perhaps checking out the latest offering besides the feeding station we later learned was below us.

Further on we passed several old rock pools, before eventually reaching the point above Cleopatra's Head marked by a cairn. There were no volunteers for the scramble up to the other side to reach her head, with our group happy to admire from a safe distance. We looked over the Impofanyana River in a sheltered spot for lunch before returning the remaining 3 km along the ridge, passing Pimple Hill and a brief stop at Picnic Table Rock before the final descent towards our vehicles.

All in all it was another rewarding day exploring Highmoor wilderness, spectacular scenery, the odd Blesbok and thankfully no meal for the vultures.

Report - Dusty Shaw





July 2026 12:36 pm

Jen Caruth



Amanda McCarthy



Jen Caruth



Lizette Gerber



Jen Caruth



July 2026 10:06 am

Jen Caruth



July 2026 8:30 am