

Goblin Combe

circular walk



This month *Life* enjoyed a colourful autumn walk around the ancient woodlands of Goblin Combe in Cleeve.

How to get there

Cleeve is on the A370 about halfway between Bristol and Weston-super-Mare. Turn off near the Lord Nelson pub on to Cleeve Hill Road. The Goblin Combe car park is about half a mile along the road on the left. The walk begins at the Environment Centre, close to the car park.

By public transport

- First buses X1, 350, 353 from Weston-super-Mare or Bristol
- ACL bus 660 from Clevedon or Yatton

Bus stop is near the Lord Nelson pub



Distance: about three miles
Difficulty: includes some steep uphill and downhill sections take care close to cliff edges there is one kissing gate and one stile the paths can be wet and muddy in places – stout waterproof footwear is recommended
Duration: allow two and a half hours, to include a picnic stop

the left path which goes slightly back on yourself and up through the woods. There's an information point on the other side of the clearing if you want to check your progress.

Follow the path uphill as it bends to the left and then the right. As the woods clear on your left enjoy the lovely views across to Clevedon. When the path forks take the right hand path which takes you across a field of vegetation then in to the woods.

Continue past the information point towards the more dense woodland. Look out for examples of forestry management in action with mature

trees, logs and saplings alongside each other in one of the coppices on your left. A third information point is situated halfway along this path so you can check your progress. The stand that supports it is made from locally sourced timber, cut when the moon was waning to minimise sap content and preserve timber.

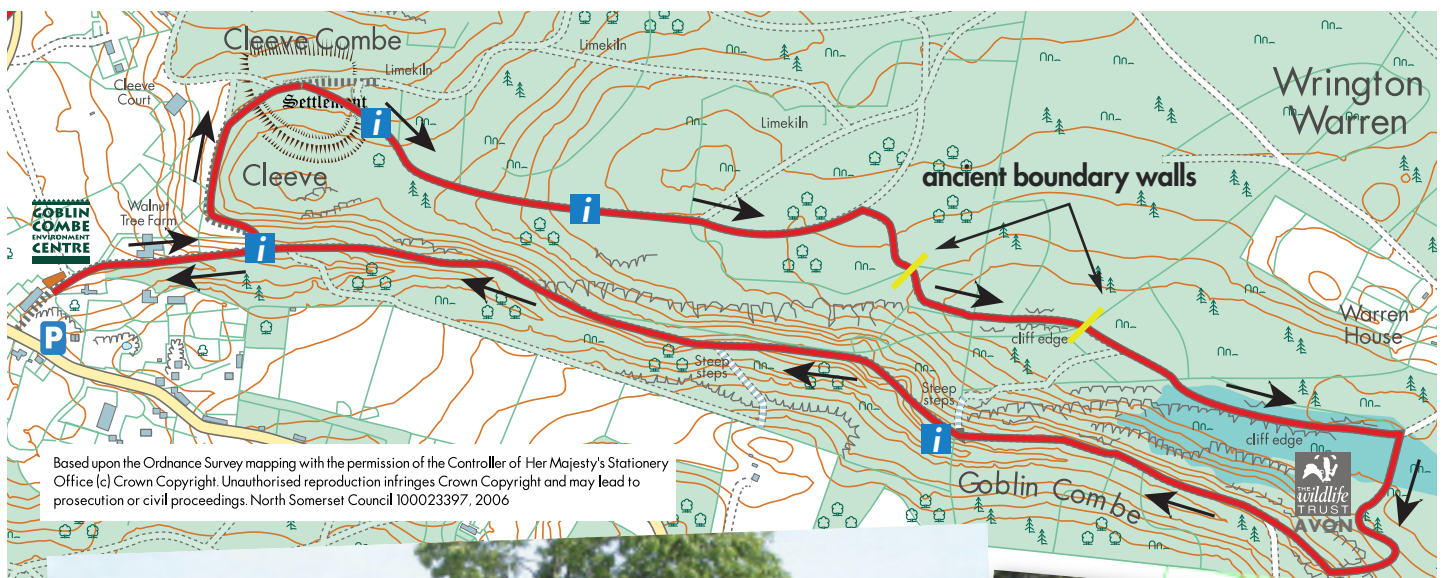
Towards the end of the path it levels out into a small clearing – look out for an unsurfaced track on the right hand side and take this. After around 150 metres look out for another track



This walk is a combination of two of the circular walks that explore Goblin Combe – Cox's Loop and Warren Walk. These are shown on the maps at information points dotted along the route so you can keep track of your progress – orange for Cox's Loop and blue for Warren Walk.

From the Environment Centre follow the gravel path and footpath signs into the woods. Go through the gate marked "Private woodlands" next to Walnut Tree Farm. After about 250 metres you'll come to a clearing – take





on the right and take this as well. Keep on the track, bearing right, and over the next 500 metres you'll cross three ancient boundary walls. There is a sharp drop on the right hand side for much of this section so please make sure all members of your party are made aware of this.

The path will start to slope uphill quite steeply and the ground will become more rocky – eventually opening up to the grassy ledge of a rocky outcrop. Take a moment to enjoy the beautiful views from the cliff top over the valley below, to the woodlands and lush green fields of Wrington. This is the perfect halfway point for a picnic and rest stop before the climb down to the gorge below.

When you're ready to begin again, with the cliffs on your right continue on the grassy trail along the top of the cliffs, over the limestone

scree, and through the long grasses towards a kissing gate. The path will start to slope downhill. As you pass another information point keep right and head downhill through the woods on a narrow track. The path becomes steeper and winding as you descend, and after around 300 metres you will reach the wide path at the bottom of the gorge. Turn right and follow the path back to the Environment Centre.

About halfway back to the Environment Centre there is a very old large beech tree on the left, with a rustic bench opposite if you need a rest stop.

There is a coffee shop at the garden centre in Cleeve so you can stop for some well-earned refreshments before you make the journey home!



Things to look out for:

- ancient boundary walls
- Cleeve Toot – a Bronze Age settlement
- fantastic views from the top of the combe
- large beech trees
- limestone kilns
- woodland management in action
- wild mushrooms and flowers.

www.goblincombe.com

Weston Tourist Information Centre
01934 888 800 for details of local walks.