

# Clapton Circuit walk

Avon Wildlife Trust

This is a new circular three-mile walk in the Gordano Valley linking the village of Clapton-in-Gordano with the Avon Wildlife Trust's Clapton Moor Nature Reserve.

## How to get there

From Portishead take the B3124 towards Clevedon and turn left at the roundabout by Gordano School. In Clapton-in-Gordano village take the second road on the right and the Black Horse pub is 300 metres on the right. Park in Wood Lane opposite the pub entrance.

**Distance:** about 3 miles

**Difficulty:** includes two uphill sections, and apart from one wet and tussocky field is generally easy.

*Stout waterproof footwear is recommended. Most stiles have been replaced by kissing gates but there are a few traditional stiles.*

**Duration:** about 2 hours



Starting at the pub (1) the circuit is best enjoyed in a clockwise direction first walking up Wood Lane towards the motorway bridge. Before the bridge turn right by an old cottage with the dates 1766 and 1770 on the wall (2).

Keep to the left close under the M5 motorway across the first two stiles. Close to the second stile a hoard of Roman coins was discovered in 1922. After passing Nicholas Wood on the right the route bears away from the motorway towards the brow of the hill.

At the brow a magnificent view of the Gordano Valley comes into sight. Descend the hill towards Clapton Church. Half way down the slope (3) the entire panorama of the valley is laid out before you.

The route carries on down the hill and joins the church path at a metal gate.

Through the gate turn left up the hill to look around St Michael's Church (4).

Turning right the walk descends the road onto Clevedon Lane and around Clapton Court Farm (5).



After passing the farm the footpath turns left and passes between the cowsheds and a large silo. Go through the gate at the end (6) and turn right and head up hill, through a metal gate and over two stiles and then head for the top of the slope under the motorway (7).

To the right of New Farm is the site of a coal shaft, part of the 19th century coal-mining activity. Cross two more stiles and head downhill away from the motorway to continue the circuit.



At the top of the slope an alternative footpath (8) leads to a footbridge over the M5 and up to Cadbury Camp. Walk to the bottom of the hill with the woodland on your left, cross a stile into a narrow field under the wood, and immediately go through a kissing gate into Clevedon Lane. Straight across the road is a narrow gap in the hedge and steps leading down to a kissing gate and in to Clapton Moor Nature Reserve (9).

The route around the reserve runs through 10m wide borders to the upper fields that have been fenced and are managed to provide a feeding habitat for owls and other birds of prey.

On entry to the reserve turn right and head towards Portishead and the mouth of the valley. The path doglegs into the next field and reaches the main entrance to the reserve (10) from where a permissive path leads down to a bird watching hide (11). Binoculars and telescopes are useful aids when using the hide in order to get close-up views of birds in lower wetland fields. Continuing along the top boundary of the reserve the route passes a pole-mounted barn owl nest box (12).

The route continues towards the bottom of the valley floor where a footbridge (13) leads out of the reserve onto neighbouring farmland.

The field before the footbridge is low lying and tussocky and is often wet underfoot. Stout shoes or boots are recommended.

At this point the circuit continues along Clapton Drove (14) for about 700m. Just past the riding stables a new kissing gate on the right leads to a footpath. Do not take this path but keep on the Drove for a further 400m until another new kissing gate appears on the right (15). The route passes through this gate and across the next three fields before passing through some stabling and finally through a gate into the yard of the Black Horse pub.

Hopefully the pub will be open and well-earned refreshments can be taken!



This walk was kindly provided by Avon Wildlife Trust

[www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/claptoncircuit](http://www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/claptoncircuit)

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