



## A woodland wander

### Walk information

**Distance:** about 5.2 miles

**Difficulty:** medium to hard: narrow, rugged paths, a couple of wooden stiles. Wear suitable footwear. Ticks are present in this woodland so wear long sleeves, trousers and boots.

**Duration:** allow 2.5 hours at a leisurely pace

**Map:** OS 154 Explorer

### How to get there

**Start at map ref:** ST 459655

**By car:** Cleeve is on the A370. A large parking area is in Cleeve Hill Road, just after the turning to Plunder Street

**By bus:** Services X1 and X2

Take a wander around the tranquil woodland of Goblin Combe and spot rare ferns and beautiful butterflies in the shady undergrowth.

From the parking area, turn right into Plunder Street and go past the old school building. Follow the footpath sign down the driveway towards Walnut Tree Farm.

Go through the gate marked The Congresbury Estate and 'Footpath to Wrington only'.

Keep on this stone track, into Cleeve Wood.

Goblin Combe is a limestone gorge. About 200 million years ago it was dry desert but torrential rainstorms and flash floods created waterfalls which wore away the rock. Millions of years later, this process was repeated when snow melted following the Ice Age.

The area is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a local nature reserve. An ancient Iron Age settlement was based here too.

You will spot the rare moonwort fern, which alchemists claimed had magical powers, and there are more than 30 species of butterflies.

After about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile you will go through a gap in a wall. If you're feeling energetic you could take the steep steps up on your left-hand side, to follow the orange route and do a detour up to the cliff edge (take extra care and don't go too close to cliff edges).

However, this walk continues straight on, following the blue footpath.

Keep going until you see another map sign at a junction in the path. Take the right-hand route here, then a quick left, onto the smaller footpath.

Continue on, with the regular sound of aeroplanes overhead. You will eventually come to a t-junction in the path so turn right here. This path runs alongside the copse, with fields on the left-hand side.

At the end of the track turn right and follow it round to the left. Just a little



further on is a kissing gate on the right-hand side. Go through here then head straight across the field towards the lane (Wrington Hill).

Exit right and continue up the lane past the pretty cottages, all the way to the next woodland (Corporation Woods).

Keep on the lane through the woods until you get to a junction next to Woodside Cottage. Take a sharp left here, up the driveway, signposted 'Congresbury Woodlands'.

Go up the track and follow it round to the right. There is a map here and you will be following the green route towards Woolmers House.

Keep onwards on the main gravel track, continuing past Kennel House (Woolmers).

Turn right after the house, the path between the gardens. This leads to a gate and into King's Wood.

Follow the woodland path over a little footbridge. Continue on the waymarked path on the left. The path runs downhill to a stile, which opens out onto a field filled with wild flowers.

Cross the field, towards a gap in the trees. Head towards the gate at the bottom.

Exit here onto the track and go immediately right, through another gate and along the path which runs between the hedges and trees.

This leads to Chapel Lane, which then leads back to Cleeve Hill Road and the parking area.



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