

Avon Wildlife Trust

Clapton Moor *for wetland wildlife and Gordano Valley views*



Setting off up the hill from the Black Horse pub **(1)** the first part of the walk is dominated by the noise of the M5 motorway opened in 1970 and bringing major changes to the valley's wildlife in its wake.

A hoard of 3000 roman coins was found here **(2)** in the 1930s. A short distance further on descending the southern ridge of the valley is like walking back in time as magnificent views of the Gordano Valley come into sight **(3)**. This sense of timelessness is reinforced by a walk around 13c St. Michael's Church **(4)** with its ancient headstones and views of historic Clapton Court **(5)**, the site of the old manor house dating back to the 11c. After the Court the route ascends once again towards the motorway **(6)** and gives views of the valley and Clapton Moor nature reserve before descending once again and entering the reserve**(7)**.

This reserve is managed to maintain wet conditions over the lower fields and encourage lapwing, redshank, and snipe to breed. The walk runs around the boundary of the reserve but take a detour to the bird hide **(8)** to get better views of the wet meadows. From the reserve the walk runs along a wildlife rich drainage rhyme **(9)** before joining Clapton Drove **(10)**. Walk along the drove for 500 metres





OS grid ref: ST458 735

Walk details

duration: 2.5 hrs

grade: moderate

Key to map

-  walk
-  point of interest
-  reserve boundary
-  car park

scale

300m

Why don't you... spend time in the bird hide looking for snipe and redshank?

The Clapton Circuit (which includes Clapton Moor) offers panoramic views of the Gordano Valley, a uniquely rich area of countryside with a surprising wealth of wildlife just 12 miles from the centre of Bristol. An historic manor and church, relics of iron and coal mining, a hoard of Roman coins and the wetlands of Clapton Moor all combine to make this an especially fascinating walk (see www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/claptoncircuit for more information).



Clapton Court

Did you know... the wildlife-rich rhynes in the wet meadows are the watery equivalent of field hedge boundaries? They also provide drinking water for cattle.

with contrasting views of industrial Avonmouth and wind turbines in the distance. Leaving the Drove through a kissing gate on the right (11) the walk passes two 17c farms and the remains of 17c coal mining activity before arriving back at the Black Horse pub where well earned refreshments can be enjoyed.

How to get there

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

Access

Apart from the route around the reserve access into the reserve is restricted to the path that leads to the hide which is suitable for wheelchair users. The lower fields on the reserve get very wet so boots are advised.

look out for...



snipe



migrant hawk



redshank