

Avon Wildlife Trust

Goblin Combe *for shady valley and airy views*



OS grid ref: ST475 653

Walk details

duration: 2 hrs

grade: moderate

Key to map

— walk

① point of interest

— reserve boundary

P car park

scale

100m

From the car park walk back down to the road, bearing right and past the Goblin Combe Environment Centre, following the footpath signs that lead you through a gate and into the Combe bottom until you enter the reserve (1). Continue along the path where gnarled yews grow – it is here where the mysteriously named moonwort flower was first ever recorded. The uncommon white admiral may be seen in July.

As the path divides, stay in the valley bottom, keeping to the route turning off left after 40m. Here the ferns of the combe are at their best with hart's-tongue and male ferns covering the greatest area and limestone fern can be found growing amongst the moss-covered scree (2). Winding your way up the footpath, follow the yellow markers on the trees to the grassland area through a kissing gate (3). Common blue butterflies, along with marbled white and silver washed fritillaries can be seen here in summer, and in the purple heath areas you'll hear woodland and common green grasshoppers singing during July and August. In the shorter areas of turf and bare rock, grayling butterflies can occasionally be seen. Cross the grassland to the interpretation board (4), turning left just before this along the path at the top of the grassland. This leads to the top of the Combe (5) – take care – the cliff to the left is very steep. The views from here take in the western end of the Mendips northwards across to the coast of South Wales. Look for the buzzards that freely orbit in the thermals over the combe. In the autumn you can hear groups of crossbills flying between the conifer plantations.

From the viewpoint follow the path to the right going down across a stone wall. Follow the path to the bottom of the Combe, taking care when walking down the steep flight of steps (6), until you again reach the reserve entrance. Turn right and retrace your steps.

How to get there

Park in quarry car park on the left near the Goblin Combe Environment Centre (signposted from the A370).

Access

Footpaths along floor of Combe can be very muddy and slippery. Take care, and do not approach cliffs and scree slopes

look out for..



moonwort



green woodpecker



white admiral

Why don't you... count the butterflies – over 30 species to be found!