

Avon Wildlife Trust

Prior's Wood *for bluebells in the spring*



OS grid ref: ST490 745

Walk details

duration: 1.5 hrs

grade: easy

Key to map

— walk

① point of interest

— reserve boundary

P car park

scale

400m

From Portbury village turn right after passing the gatehouse on your right and continue up the track between the fields. When you enter the reserve by the interpretation sign **(1)** turn left off the main track and follow the waymark to the top of the hill **(2)**, across another ride and down a flight of steps and into the heart of the wildlife rich woodland.

At the bottom turn right onto the woodland path. In the spring either side of this path bluebells blur into a haze up and down the slopes, with areas of white flowered wild garlic and patches of wood anemone. A column of mature oak and sweet chestnut rise from the ground, and in high summer very little light penetrates the rich green canopy above. In places where trees have naturally fallen, glades have formed, and it is here during the summer that spotted flycatchers can be seen catching insects on the wing. As you follow this path it gently **(3)** rises and bends to the right, bringing you out again onto the main ride **(4)**. Turning left here past a replanted area. Continue onto the reserve entrance by the Children's Hospice South West **(5)**. However, do not leave the reserve, but turn right and descend the path that takes you down to the stream.

Cross the bridge **(6)** and follow the path up the hill, taking the first right onto the main track. Following this takes you into an extensive bluebell area that is truly breathtaking in the spring. At the end of this path **(7)** cross a new bridge that takes you up a slope and along a narrow woodland path which eventually rejoins the ride near the first sign **(8)**. Turn left and retrace your steps.

How to get there

From Portbury take the Clapton-in-Gordano road, parking on layby just after last house in Portbury village. Walk back to the gated lane, turning onto a track that leads into the woodland.

Access

Some of the paths can be muddy, slippery and steep sided.

Did you know? Prior's Wood was once part of the great Tyntesfield Estate near Wraxall. Timber from the woodland was processed in the saw mills of the estate.

Why don't you... come back in autumn on a fungus foray?

look out for...



bluebells



bullfinch



chiffchaff