



Gordano Valley



St Michael's Church



Field boundary rhyne

## Gordano Valley – a very special place

The walk 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, and a hoard of Roman coins all combine to make this an especially fascinating place.

## A wealth of wildlife

The Gordano Valley combines saltmarsh, peat fen, ancient woodlands, and limestone grassland within a single catchment some 10 square miles in extent. This rich mosaic of habitats results in the highest concentration of buzzards breeding anywhere in Britain, rare whitebeams at Weston Big Wood, 16 species of dragonfly, and more than half of all the butterfly species in Britain.

## History

Around the walk the Romans mined for iron and coal (and left a hoard of 3400 coins), Clapton Court with its 15c embattled tower is on the site of the 11c manor house built by one of William the Conquerors knights, St Michael's church dates from the 13c, and remains of coal mining from the 17c to 19c can still be found.

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

## How to get there

From Portishead take the B3124 towards Clevedon and turn left 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.

## Other information

This circular walk involving new rights of way, improved access, and interpretation has been implemented jointly by **North Somerset Council** and **Avon Wildlife Trust** with funding generously provided by **Yansec**.

Avon Wildlife Trust is your local charity working full time to protect wildlife in your area. With the support of over 17,500 members we look after 38 nature reserves, campaign on issues that threaten wildlife and encourage everyone to be more concerned about our natural environment.

If you would like to find out more about the Trust and support our work please contact:

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(Registered Charity No 280422)

To learn more, download a copy of this leaflet and other information, and to make any comments on the walk go to [www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/claptoncircuit](http://www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/claptoncircuit)

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Avon Wildlife Trust

# Clapton Circuit ways into wildlife



A CIRCULAR WALK  
IN THE GORDANO  
VALLEY LINKING  
THE VILLAGE  
OF CLAPTON-IN-  
GORDANO WITH  
CLAPTON MOOR  
NATURE RESERVE

Buzzard – © Abi Stubbs. Meadow at Clapton Moor



Wildlife it's all about us



# Clapton Circuit

Clapton Circuit  
ways into wildlife



Black Horse Pub



Clapton Court



Flock of lapwing – © Abi Stubbs

**This 3-mile circular walk offers magnificent views, diverse wildlife, and fascinating history.**

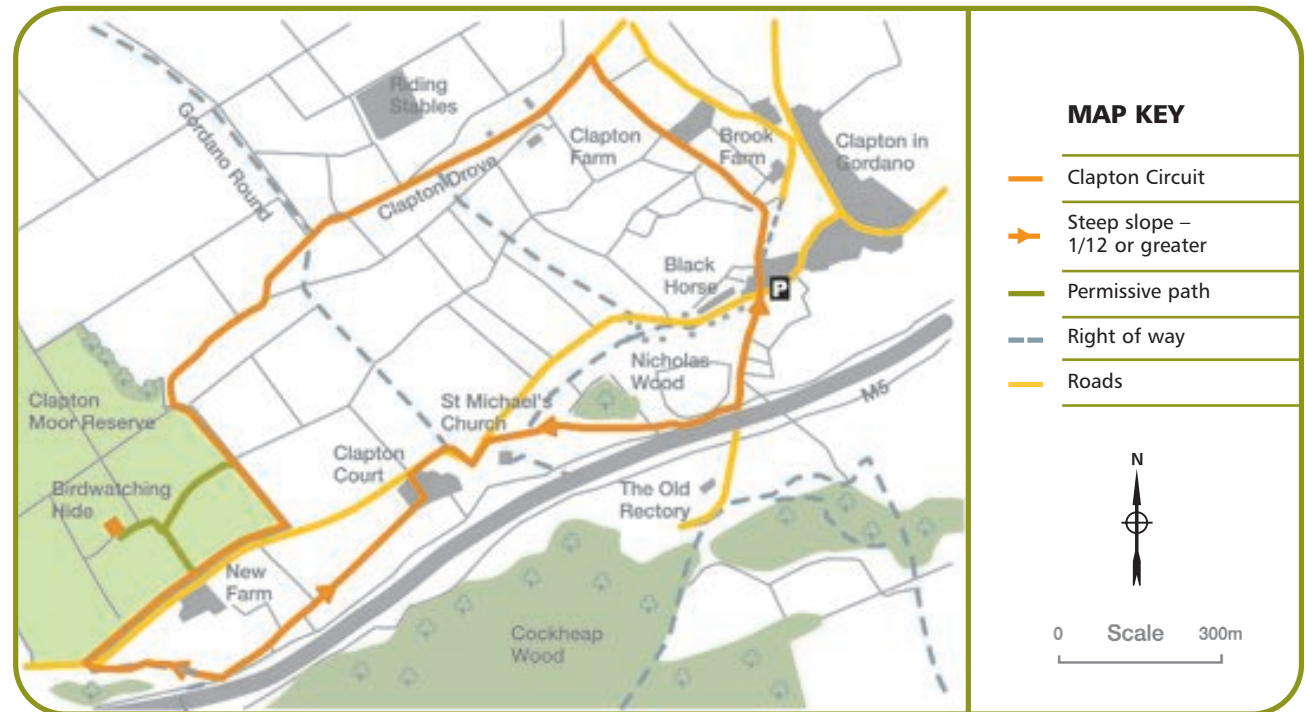
Setting off up the hill from the Black Horse pub the first part of the walk is dominated by the noise of the M5 motorway opened in 1970 and bringing major changes to the valley's wildlife in its wake. Descending the southern ridge of the valley is like walking back in time as magnificent views of the Gordano Valley come into sight. This sense of timelessness is reinforced by a walk around 13c St. Michael's Church with its ancient headstones and views of historic Clapton Court, the site of the old manor house dating back to the 11c.

After the Court the route ascends once again towards the motorway and gives views of the valley and Clapton Moor nature reserve. This reserve is managed to maintain wet conditions over the lower fields and encourage lapwing, redshank, and snipe to breed. Visit the bird hide to get views over the wetlands.

The route around the reserve runs through barn owl corridors. Note the pole-mounted barn owl nest box.

A newly created right of way leads from the reserve alongside a wildlife rich rhyn to join the existing footpath network at Clapton Drove. In the distance the industrialisation of Avonmouth forms a dramatic contrast to the peaceful valley.

The end of the walk passes two 17c farms and the remains of 17c coal mining activity before arriving back at the Black Horse pub and the village which is mentioned in the Domesday Book.



Below: Panoramic view Gordano Valley

For more information about the wildlife and history around the walk, go to [www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/claptoncircuit](http://www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/claptoncircuit)

ways into wildlife

