

History of Walborough

Walborough and the surrounding reserves are steeped in a long and rich history which adds another layer of magic to the area.

Limestone, gathered from Uphill and used for buildings, roads and railways, was burned in lime kilns to create quicklime. You can still see the remains of these two lime kilns near the entrance to the Uphill reserve.

This early quarrying was able to discover evidence, such as flint tools and marks on bones, that indicate people have been here for over 40,000 years. As you walk over the top of the hill at Walborough and admire the views over the river and out towards Brean, consider how the landscape might have looked all those years ago to our Bronze Age ancestors, some of who were laid to rest beneath your feet at the top of the hillock.

This Bronze Age burial ground at Walborough was cleared of trees over 5,000 years ago and has been grazed ever since. Some of the surrounding fields were fertilised during the second world war but the

hill was spared resulting in some really species rich grasslands that we enjoy today. Wildflowers prefer poorer quality soil so the lack of fertiliser use in the past has helped them grow.

Looking out from Walborough you can see the Old Church of Saint Nicholas on top of the hill. The door and the central tower of the church date back to the 12th century! It is estimated the church was founded around 1080 and still has many of its original features such as the gargoyles.

The cliffs beneath the ancient church contain caves that are thought to have been used since the stone age!

In 1996, the site became a nature reserve when it was purchased by Avon Wildlife Trust with help from the Heritage Lottery Fund and has continued to be a thriving place for nature and people ever since.

