

Avon Wildlife Trust

Walborough and Purn Hill *for coast paths and hilltops*



From the Boatyard **(1)** on Uphill Way, walk south along the surfaced path onto Uphill Cliff **(2)**. Keep on the path and after passing through a small gate **(3)** climb up the hill. Just before the top, turn right through a stile **(4)**, onto Walborough Nature Reserve. Follow this path around the side of the hill, down through a kissing gate and over a bridge **(5)**. Walk diagonally across this field. At the interpretation board rejoin the surfaced path **(6)** and leave the reserve, heading south through the kissing gate. The path takes you across part of the Bleadon Levels. Continue until you reach the road that leads to the sewage treatment works **(7)**. At this point turn left. Follow this road until you reach the main entrance **(8)**. Turn left onto the main road (take care here) and follow this until you reach the A370 **(9)**. Turn right and immediately cross the road, turning left at the road junction down Bleadon Road towards the village of Bleadon **(10)**. After 100m turn left through a gate and into a field **(11)**. Walk up the footpath to Purn Hill Nature Reserve **(12)**.

Follow the path and turn left to up a flight of steps to the summit. **(13)**. Turn right and heading northwards walk along the spine of the hill, passing through a gateway and out of the reserve through a kissing gate onto Purn Lane **(14)**. Turn left and walk down the lane.

OS grid ref: ST316 579

Walk details

duration: 3 hrs

grade: challenging

Key to map

— walk

① point of interest

— reserve boundary

P car park

scale

400m

Why don't you... bring your binoculars and see how many waders you see at Walborough?

A circular walk between two of our nature reserves with marvellous views across the Axe and Severn Estuaries from Walborough, and across the Somerset Levels to the Blackdowns and Quantocks from Purn Hill. The sea is once again being allowed to inundate the low-lying field behind the Victorian sea wall at Walborough, to expand the salt marsh. This is called 'managed retreat'.



Did you know... white rock rose (above) is only found on two other sites in the UK?

At the bottom you reach some houses **(15)**, turn right and follow the old road until you reach the A370. Carefully cross the road and turn right, crossing over the railway bridge before turning sharp left at the next junction **(16)**. Walk down the lane and towards the bottom turn right along a sign posted bridleway **(17)**.

Follow this old country by-way until you reach the point where you left Walborough Nature Reserve. As you enter turn slightly left, walking diagonally across the first field. Cross the bridge and turn left, passing two gates, and retrace your steps following the edge of the rising hill. After 150m, bear to the left **(18)** and descend the path, passing a small quarry on your right, along a boardwalk and over a stile onto the old sea wall. Walk along the wall with the existing saltmarsh on your left **(19)** and newly created 'managed retreat' on your right. Stay on the coastal path and return to the beginning of the walk by passing alongside the boatyard **(20)**.

How to get there

Follow signs to Uphill village from the southern end of Weston-super-Mare. Uphill leads towards the south end of Weston beach. Head towards the beach but park near the large sluice gates on the left or by Uphill Way.

Access

A surfaced path on part of Walborough – open access to grassland but please keep off salt marsh to avoid disturbance to birds. Some road walking so take care, steep climb to Purn Hill.

look out for...



brown hare



azure damselfly

grizzled skipper

