



Burrington Combe

A Circular Walk of 3 miles (5km)

A hilly walk past cave, swallet and combe
on the Burrington Commons.



- Starting point:** Burrington Combe public car park (with toilets), B3134, adjacent to the Burrington Inn. OS Grid Ref ST476588.
- Terrain:** Gentle climb through the combe, then steep slopes to Black Down. Undulating heath and grassland descending back into the combe. Muddy in winter.
- Waymarking:** Look for the special black, white and red waymark plaques wherever there are stiles, gates or changes of direction.
- OS. Map:** Explorer 141: Cheddar Gorge & Mendip Hills West.



Other information: Wear strong, comfortable footwear and remember to take extra clothing, as sections of the walk are on exposed hilltop. Follow the Countryside Code.

Burrington Combe dates back to the Triassic period of the earth's evolution, when it was a wadi or dried-up riverbed. During the frequent violent storms on the mountain range that is now the Mendip Hills, flash floods scoured the combe we know today. The combe is part of Burrington Commons and is managed by the Conservators for wildlife and public access.

Things to look for: *Mendip Ponies*; these ponies roam wild on the common. They increase the wildlife value of the area by grazing the grass and browsing on trees. Please don't approach them or try to feed them.

Rock of Ages; the cleft in the rock where the Rev. Augustus Toplady sheltered from a storm in the late 1700s, inspiring the hymn Rock of Ages.

Caves; You will pass many caves on this walk formed from the rain dissolving the limestone rock. Do not be tempted to explore them on your own. If you would like to try caving, contact the AONB Service, who can put you in touch with a local caving club. Most notable of all the caves is Aveline's Hole, up the road from the starting point car park. This cave is one of the earliest recorded burial sites in western Europe, dating back 10,000 years.

One of a set of seven Walk Cards for the Mendip Hills AONB.

For more details contact;

The Mendip Hills AONB Service based at Charterhouse Centre

Tel: 01761 462338

web: www.mendiphillsaonb.org.uk

e-mail: mendiphills@somerset.gov.uk