

Mendip Hills AONB



TRAIL TYPE

Walking

GRADE

Moderate

DISTANCE

4 miles (6 ½ km)

TIME

2 ½ hours

OS MAP

Explorer: 141

Landranger: 182

CONTACT

01761 462338

mendiphills@somerset.gov.uk

FACILITIES

Roadside parking in Wookey Hole village.

N.B. the car park at Wookey Hole is for visitors to the caves only.

Pub and café in Wookey Hole.

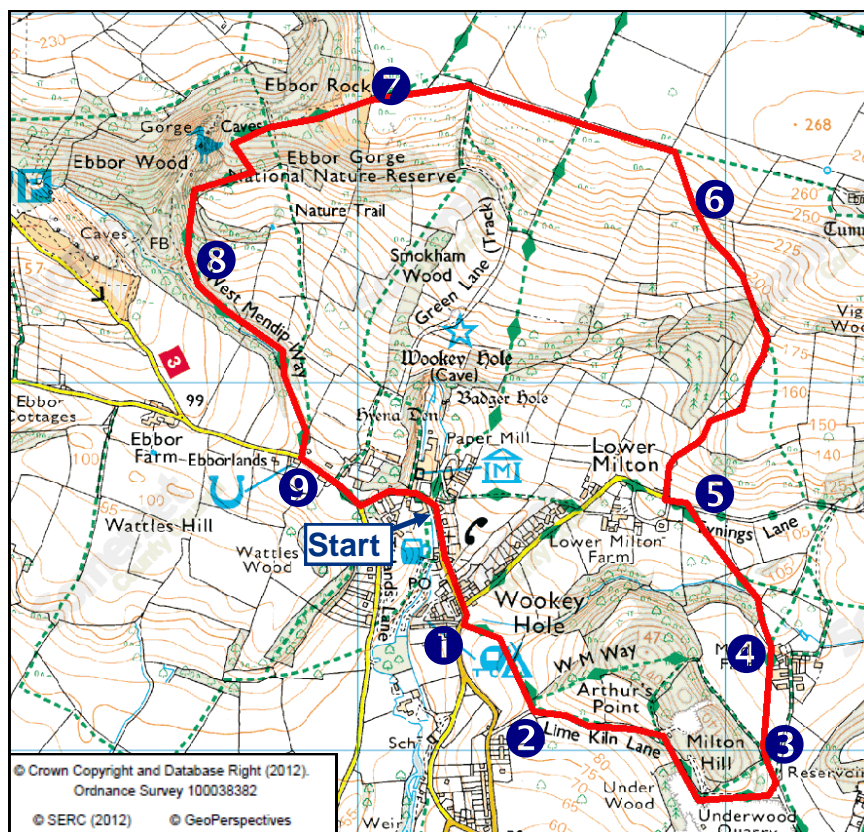
Ebbor Gorge & Wookey Hole

A walk exploring the limestone scenery, superb woodland, wild flowers and bird life of the south western slopes of the Mendip Hills including Ebbor Gorge, designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and National Nature Reserve. There are fine views across the Somerset Levels to Glastonbury Tor.



TERRAIN

This is a moderate 4 mile route along paths and tracks. Several stiles and kissing gates and some steep climbs. It is not advisable to walk to the Wookey Hole view point in foggy or very windy weather. Use only waymarked paths – it is dangerous to depart from these paths.



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START/END

Entrance to Wookey Hole
Caves car park.
Grid Ref ST 532475

HOW TO GET THERE

BY BIKE

Wookey Hole is on
Sustrans National Cycle
Route 3.
www.sustrans.org.uk

BY BUS

Service 670 Wookey Hole to
Burnham on Sea via Wells

BY CAR

Wookey Hole is 2 miles
from the city of Wells and
is marked with brown
tourist signs from the A39
between Wells and
Cheddar.

DIRECTIONS & INFORMATION

Turn right out of the car park and walk down the road past the church and the Wookey Hole Inn. Continue past Milton Lane and take the footpath on the left signposted to Wells.

(1) Follow the footpath ahead and uphill keeping the hedgerow on your right. Go through a wooden kissing gate and continue straight ahead along a narrow, fenced path.

(2) At the end of the path Turn left onto a lane with a tarmac surface and head uphill. Where the lane divides take the left hand fork, and then almost immediately turn right to walk past the lime kilns, then bear left onto the lane.

(3) Go through a gap next to a metal gate and turn immediately left, between large boulders, onto a grassy track (just before the junction with a tarmac lane). At the end of the track go through a wooden kissing gate and follow the footpath signed diagonally across the field aiming for the left hand side of the farm buildings. Continue ahead past the farm to go through a metal gate in a stone wall on your right.

(4) Bear left and walk downhill to a metal kissing gate by a stream in the far corner of the field. Go through the kissing gate and bear left going uphill a short way and then downhill to go through a wooden kissing gate. Cross diagonally to the far corner of the field to a stile leading onto a lane.

(5) Turn left along the lane past the camp site entrance then take a footpath through the second of two metal field gates on the right. Follow the footpath uphill through one field with the hedge on your right, then through 2 more fields with the hedge on your left. Cross a stile on the left and follow a stony track then go through a gap beside a gate into a field. Follow the clear path straight ahead between two rows of trees.

(6) At the end of the path cross stile and continue straight ahead going uphill towards the tall hedge at the far side of the field. Cross a stile in the hedge and continue straight ahead through three fields. On reaching a water trough next to a gate turn left and follow the path keeping the hedge on your right.

(7) Cross a stile into Ebbor Gorge national nature reserve next to the information board and follow the well trodden path ahead and downhill crossing another stile and onto a stony path. At a junction of paths go straight ahead following 'West Mendip way' signs. At the next junction of paths go straight ahead to the view point.

Ebbor Gorge was formed 200,000 years ago when a huge cavern collapsed forming the dramatic cliffs and limestone scree slopes you see today. The varied age and canopy structure of woodland encourages a high diversity of butterflies, nationally scarce species including the White letter-hairstreak and High Brown Fritillary, while species such as the Chalkhill Blue and Brown Argus occur on the limestone grassland.

Retrace your steps to the path junction and turn right and go downhill through the woodland.

(8) At the bottom of a long series of steps turn left along the path following signs to Wookey Hole.

(9) Joining the road next to a house turn left and follow the road back to the car park.