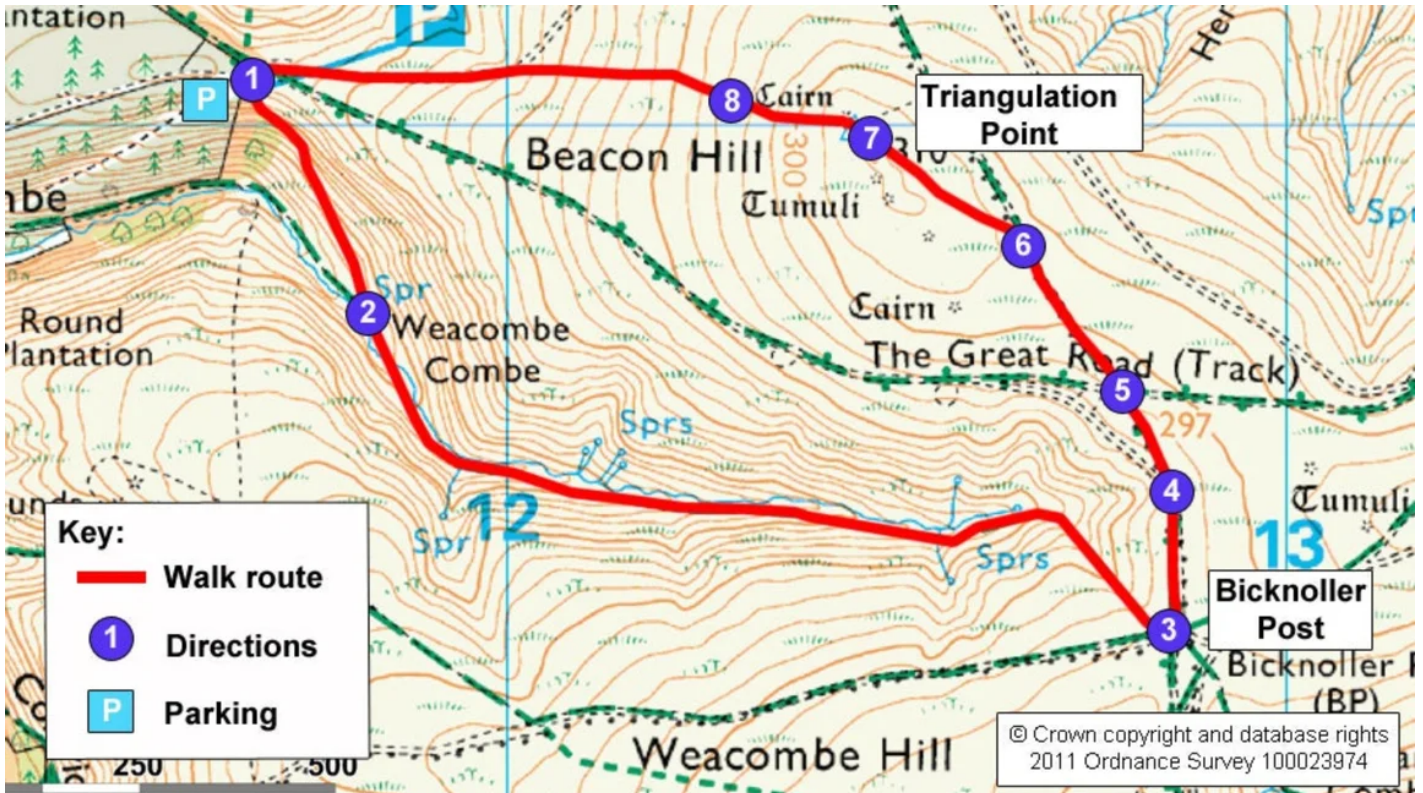


SOMERSET

Staple Plain walk

This walking trail takes you down through broadleaf woodland, into a bracken-filled combe and up to the top of Beacon Hill for views across the Quantock Hills and beyond. Continue through lowland heathland, listening and looking out for red deer, skylark and Dartford warbler in this wildlife-rich environment.



Information

Address: Quantocks, Somerset

OS map: Explorer 140; Landranger 181

Activity: Walking

Easy: Varied terrain with steep slope and some steps.

For further details, see section marked Terrain.

Dog friendly: Dogs welcome under close control or on a lead. 1 March to 31 July dogs must be on short leads.

Full trail: Miles: 2 (km: 3.2)

Access: Challenging

Duration: 1 hour

Terrain

Circular walk through different habitats, with varied terrain. Steep slope at start of walk, with some steps. Most of the trail is along wide stone or grass tracks, with a section passing through a few streams which can be muddy during wet weather.

Total steps: 8

Start point: Staple Plain car park, grid ref: ST116410

1. Head towards the car park entrance, then go left past a wooden gate and fence to a track in the corner of the car park which is waymarked down into Weacombe Combe. The track heads steeply down at first, alongside woodland.
2. Follow the track down until it joins a path running along the bottom of Weacombe Combe. Turn left and follow this path up the combe, keeping the stream on your right. About half of the way up, the path crosses the stream. Cross over and continue to follow the path up the combe.
3. At the top of the combe (on the opposite side where several tracks meet) is Bicknoller Post. From here, on a clear day, you can see over to Minehead and Dunkery Beacon in Exmoor. Turn left at these tracks and follow it away from the two hawthorn trees either side of the track, with Bicknoller Post behind you on the right.
4. When the track splits keep right and then continue walking straight on. Keep walking up the stony tracks in roughly a straight (northerly) direction.
5. Head over the crossroads and walk roughly 218yd (200m), where you will see a grassy track leading off to the left.
6. Follow this path up a gentle slope to the triangulation point; a concrete trig point.
7. Once at the trig point stop to take in the views: Wales, Steep Holm in the Bristol Channel, Weston-Super-Mare, Brean Down, Bridgwater Bay, Quantock Common, Exmoor and Minehead can all be seen from here.
8. The trig point is sited on a mound of stones (a cairn) with another a few metres away and a path just to the left of it. Head down this path until you reach the car park. While going down this path you'll pass through heathland of varying different ages, which attracts a range of wildlife, and also some bracken covered areas.

End point: Staple Plain car park, grid ref: ST116410
