

WALES

Colby Estate Forest and Field Walk (Pink Trail)

This scenic circular walk winds through estate woodland and farmland. Descending into the valley, then climbs steeply to Little Craig-Y-Borian farmstead. Enjoy stunning coastal views from the level farmland, vibrant with wildflowers in spring and early summer, before returning through the peaceful woodland of Craig y Borion.

i Wildlife to spot

Spring brings the chance to spot a Nuthatch or a Great Spotted Woodpecker, with Mayflies dancing over moving water. Early butterflies such as the Brimstone and Peacock can be seen on sunny days, and the Orange-tip butterfly will begin to emerge when the cuckoo flowers open. Woodland paths and understorey are filled with bluebells. In summer, listen for the melodic songs of Blackcaps and the distinctive call of the Chiffchaff. You might spot frogs and newts in damp woodland areas. And blankets of wildflowers will spread across the fields. Bats are hunting insects across the skies at dusk, watch them follow tree lines and hedgerows. In autumn, spot Fungi, on the fallen trees and branches. Squirrels and small mammals are gathering food for winter. In winter, the woodlands come alive with feeding flocks of Great Tits, Blue Tits, and Long-tailed Tits, while Blackbirds, Robins, and Wrens fill the air with their calls. Farm hedgerows provide a winter foodsource and refuge for Fieldfares and Redwings.



Information

Address: Colby Woodland Garden, near Amroth, Pembrokeshire, SA67 8PP

Activity: Walking

Challenging: Walking boots or sturdy shoes are recommended for this walk. The route includes steps and uneven terrain, with one steep descent and one steep ascent. Woodland paths may be muddy. 1 stream crossing over wood sleepers without a handrail. The walk features 7 gates. 90m ascent/90m descent. Highest Point 130m elevation. Stream sides are a hazard for children who should be supervised. **For further details, please see Terrain section.**

Dog friendly: Dogs under close control welcome on Colby Estate. Dogs on leads welcome in Colby Woodland Garden. Dogs on leads only through farmland (see signs on gates on entering farmland).

Full trail: Miles: 2.2 miles (3.5km) (km: NaN)

Total stages: 6

Start point: Colby Estate Upper car park, grid ref: SN 15990 08175

1. Facing the noticeboard at the top end of the carpark, go left along the woodland track (Ignore the bridleway further ahead off to the left).
2. Take the next footpath to the left at the pink waymarker, go down the steps and follow the steep descent to the stream. Cross the stream and head uphill going straight ahead across two footpaths. Climb up the steps and through the gate continuing straight on past the pink waymarker and through a bracken covered field. Continue up the steep ascent following the path through the field to the gate.
3. Pass through the gate, turn right, with Little Craig Y Borian farmstead off to your left.
4. Continue to the next pink waymarker at a Y junction with a gated path off to your left. Go left here through the smaller gate. The path leads to a field gate (1). This is a dog-on-lead area. Stay alongside the hedge on your right until you reach the far corner of the field. Go right through gate (2) then immediately left, following the hedge boundary to the far corner of the field. Go left through gate (3). Keep straight ahead with the hedge on your right until you go through 2 consecutive gates with pink/orange waymarkers leading onto a farm track.

Duration:

Terrain

The terrain varies. While some paths on farmland are level, many areas in the woodland have uneven ground, can be muddy, and include loose stone steps and exposed tree roots. A short steep rocky descent to the stream and a challenging partly stepped steep ascent up to Little Craig y Borian. The stream crossing is made of wood sleepers without a handrail and can be slippery.

Elevation details: Total ascent/descent: 90m

Highest point: 130m

5. Immediately take the path off to your left, continuing along and through the denser woodland. As the path descends to a hard-surfaced access track, take a slight right here and continue the main track down to the tarmac road.
 6. Turn left at the road, passing Rose Cottage on your left (National Trust holiday cottage) and Colby Lodge on your right. Just after Colby Lodge, you'll see an entrance on your right leading to the Tea Room, WC's, Gallery, and Book Shop. You are now in Colby Woodland Gardens. To return to the upper car park, take the path to the left opposite the lower car park entrance.
- End point: Colby Estate car park, grid ref: SN 15990 08175