



Dundon Beacon Nature Reserve, Compton Dundon

ST 484 326 60 acres (24.3ha)

A mosaic of calcareous grassland, scrub, ancient oak woodland, secondary woodland and conifer plantation on Dundon Hill. The top of Dundon Hill features significant archaeological remains with a hill fort, Bronze Age round barrow and ancient quarry.

Start: Castlebrook Inn
Compton Dundon, Somerton TA11 6PR

Terrain: Roads, tracks, unsurfaced footpaths and fields. Undulating with some steep sections. Slippery in wet conditions. Please take care along roads.

Distance: Approx. 2.3 miles

Approx time: 45-60 mins

Go For a Wild Walk



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Somerton TA11 6PR

Notes: Please take care along roads



Pyramidal Orchid

Its common name comes from the bright pink, pyramid-shaped cluster of flowers on top of the stem. Leaves are long, narrow and pointed.

- 1** Walking from the Castlebrook Inn turn left and follow the main road for 100 metres to a public footpath signposted on your right. Walk through the kissing gate and follow the footpath along the edge of the fields.
- 2** You now join the Church Path, a footpath linking Compton with the parish church in Dundon. The flagstones along the route were laid in the C18th.
- 3** Turn left, passing a metal gate and follow the steep track up Dundon Hill to Dundon Beacon Nature Reserve.
- 4** As you reach the top you will see a Somerset Wildlife Trust information board for Dundon Beacon. From here, you can explore the ancient hill fort, species-rich grassland and glimpse views across the surrounding moors and hills.
- 5** Make your way back to the information board and head back down the track. After a short distance turn left along a path, pass a metal gate and then turn right down the hill (steep in places), meandering between ant hills. The grassland here supports many plants and insects that thrive on the limestone soil. Access over the slope is by kind permission of the landowner and tenant.

- 6** At the foot of the slope turn right and join a footpath that leads to the Church Path.
- 7** At the Church Path you have a choice; either turn right to head back to the Castlebrook Inn or turn left to visit the parish Church of St Andrew, dating from the C14th, and its ancient yew tree, believed to be over 1,700 years old. From here you can also carry on to Lollover Hill.
- 8** On the return route, follow the Church Path through a kissing gate in the hedge on your left about 100 metres past the track that runs up Dundon Hill. Follow the path to the road, Ham Lane, and turn right. At the junction with the main road, turn right to return to the Castlebrook Inn.

Marbled White

Adult Marbled Whites can often be found feeding on purple flowers such as Field Scabious, Common Knapweed and Wild Marjoram.

