

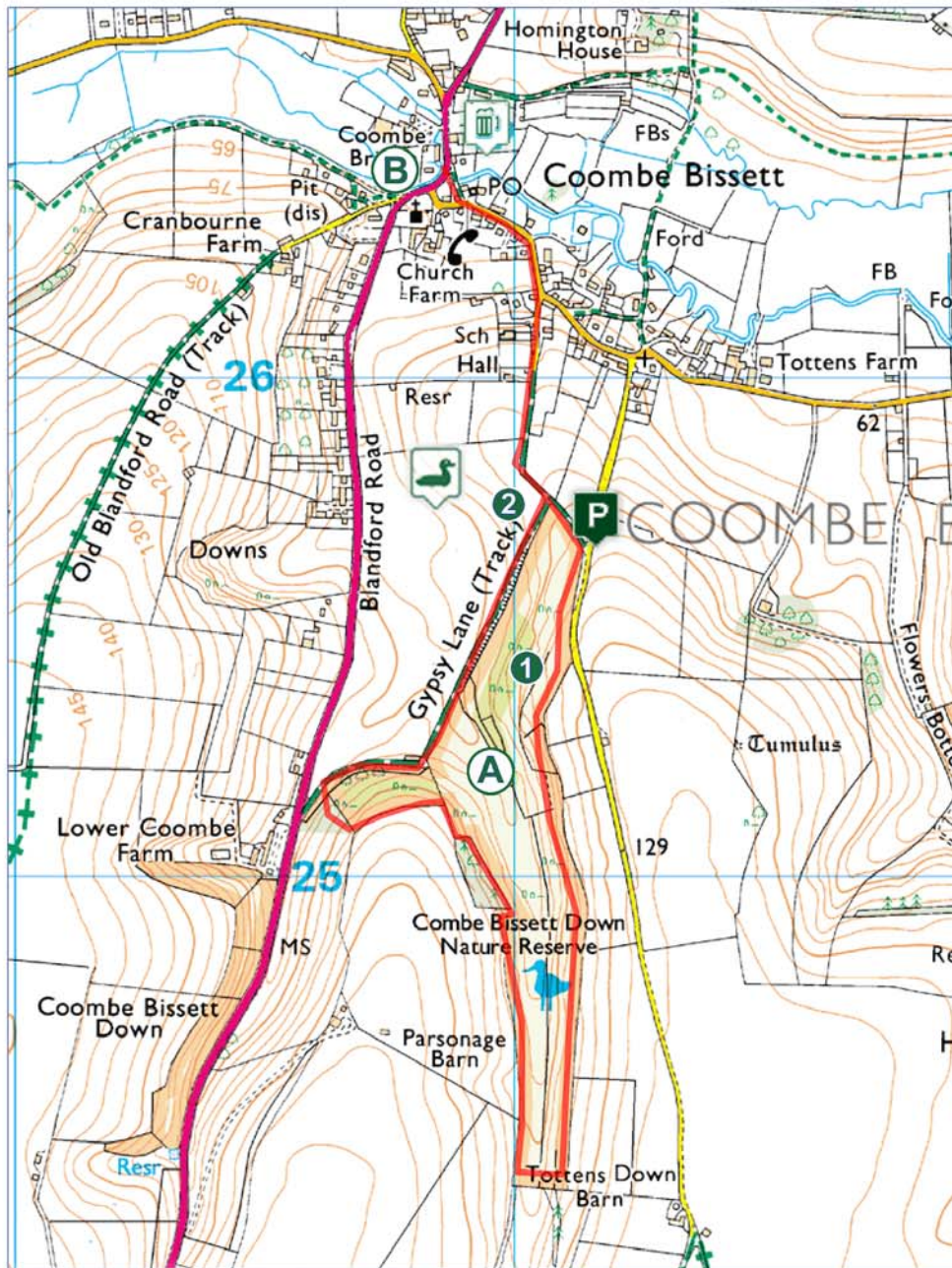
Walk: Coombe Bissett Nature Reserve

Length of Walk

5 miles (8km)

Ordnance Survey map: Explorer 130

Walk Start: SU 111248



Key

- Walk route with waypoint
- Parking
- Pub
- Place to eat
- Historic Site
- Nature Reserve
- Point of Interest

Distance: 5 miles (8km)

Time: Allow 3 hrs

Terrain: Not suitable for push-chairs and buggies. Dogs on leads welcome

Difficulty: Moderate

Suitable for: All

Start: Car Park, Pennings Drove, SP5 4NA

Start Grid Reference:

X : 411100

Y : 124800

Latitude : 51.022467

Longitude : -1.843115

OS Explorer Map (1:25 000)

Salisbury and Stonehenge
No. 130

Notes & Refreshments:

Coombe Bissett Village Stores
and the Fox and Goose Pub

A gentle stroll round Coombe Bissett Down Nature Reserve and into the historic village of Coombe Bissett.

1. Starting from the small Car Park on Pennings Drove we suggest you undertake a clockwise loop of the nature reserve by exiting the carpark and turning left and following the edge of the nature reserve to the top. The various sections of the reserve can be accessed through a series of wooden gates.

2. A pleasant detour on your return to the bottom of the reserve is to access Gypsy Lane via a stile and turn right down this track into the village of Coombe Bissett. Here you can visit the village stores, the Fox and Goose Pub and the village church.

Points of Interest

A Coombe Bissett Down Nature Reserve. Coombe Bissett Down is a chalk downland valley south west of the city of Salisbury.

It is worth a visit at any time of year for its sweeping views, swooping curves, and steep slopes patterned by medieval terraces. These features, called strip lynchets, were deliberately cut into the slopes to create arable fields for farming.

Walk the slopes in the summer months and you will see they are ablaze with flowers and butterflies – from the cowslips in April, through to September when they are a purple haze of devil's-bit scabious. The peak of flower power is late May and early June.

The reserve contains fields that used to be sown with crops but have been restored to downland for the benefit of birds and invertebrates. Wildflowers like the pyramidal orchid are returning.

B St Michaels and All Angels Church - The church is built of stone and flint, its earliest features date from the 12th century. It is situated close to the old turnpike road leading to Woodyates.

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This information is intended only as a general guide. Recommended Ordnance Survey maps are listed.

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Cranborne Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

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and places to visit at: www.discoverchalkevalley.org.uk

