

# Circular Walk Number 5 - Cothelstone Hill

5

Distance: 2.5 miles 4 km

Time: 1.5 hours

## Quantock Hills

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



Cothelstone Hill is managed by the AONB Service, on behalf of Somerset County Council, who bought the land in 1973 for its landscape and wildlife value and for its use by the public for air and exercise. The main management tool of the hill top is a herd of Exmoor Ponies, a hardy breed who are well suited to the harsh weather often associated with the hilltop.

The walk takes you through a mixed woodland of ash, hazel and oak, where you can see woodpeckers, nuthatch and tawny owls throughout the year. A summer migrant is that of the pied flycatcher, the male is easily recognisable by its black and white plumage often seen in the tree canopy. In early spring the woodland floor comes alive with a carpet of bluebells.

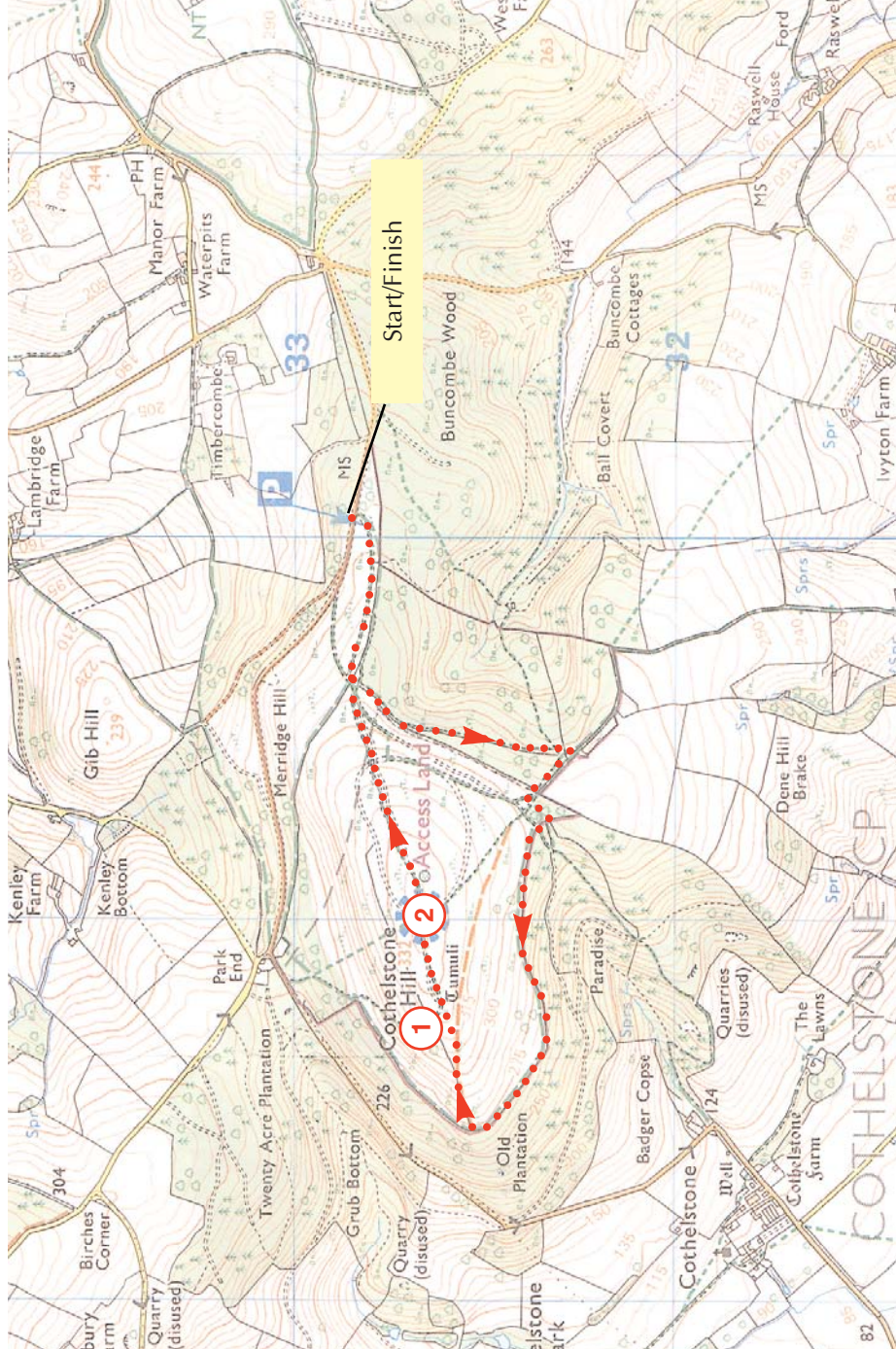
As you walk over the top of the hill you come upon two Bronze-Age burial mounds (1). At the summit there is a cairn, over which a round tower was built serving as a lookout for spotting fire beacons in times of national danger (2). Now there is little left but the foundations. Further on is a clump of Beech trees known locally as Seven Sisters. On the open hill you may see buzzards soaring, or hear the distinctive call of the Yellowhammer ("Little bit of bread and no cheese"). From here it is a short walk back to the car park.

Please keep dogs under control around livestock and do not feed the ponies.

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Follow these  
Waymarkers



1 mile = 1.6093 kilometres  
100 feet = 30.48 metres

Use of this suggested route is undertaken  
entirely at walkers own risk and responsibility.

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