



Webbers Post wander

Webbers Post, Holnicote Estate, west of Minehead, West Somerset

TRAIL
Walking

GRADE
Easy

DISTANCE
1 mile (1.6km)

TIME
30 minutes to 40 minutes

OS MAP
**Landranger 181;
Explorer OL9**

Contact

01823 451587
holnicote@nationaltrust.org.uk

Facilities

Situated in the heart of one of the National Trust's largest countryside properties, the route provides wonderful panoramic views across the 20 square miles of the Holnicote Estate, encompassing some of the most stunning landscape within Exmoor National Park.

Grade of walk: Trainer (all rounder)

Type of walk: 'Flora & Fauna', 'Beautiful Views'



Terrain

This circular walk takes you along an Easy Access Trail and level bridleway. The ground can be a little muddy in places, especially after wet weather, but is suitable for families with young children and off-road buggies. Dogs are welcome but keep them on a lead, as you will be walking near livestock.

Things to see



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Temperate rainforest

Horner is a rainforest owned and managed by us. Its ancient semi-natural woodland is one of the largest wooded National Nature Reserves in England covering some 900 acres. Horner is classified as an Atlantic Oakwood with a warm and moist oceanic climate. It has over 80 inches of rain a year. The rainforest climate is characterised by the richness in wet-loving plants like mosses, ferns and lichens, literally dripping from the branches.

The heath fritillary

The heath fritillary is one of Britain's rarest butterflies. The striking brown and orange butterfly has been in serious decline in Britain over the last 30 years and now remains in only four areas of the country. On Exmoor it can be found from late May to July, in sunny, sheltered, heathland combs. Following several years of careful management the species appears to be stable, after years of decline throughout the 1980s and 1990s.

Fungi

More than 440 species of fungi have been recorded in Horner Woods and the surrounding area. Although there are many edible fungi to be found, there are also some extremely dangerous varieties such as the most famous and deadly of all poisonous mushrooms, the death cap. The death cap (*Amanita phalloides*) is suspected to have caused more mushroom poisoning deaths than any other species!



Webbers Post, Holnicote
Estate, west of Minehead, West
Somerset

Start/end

Start: Main Webbers Post car
park, grid ref: SS903438
End: Main Webbers Post car
park, grid ref: SS903438

How to get there

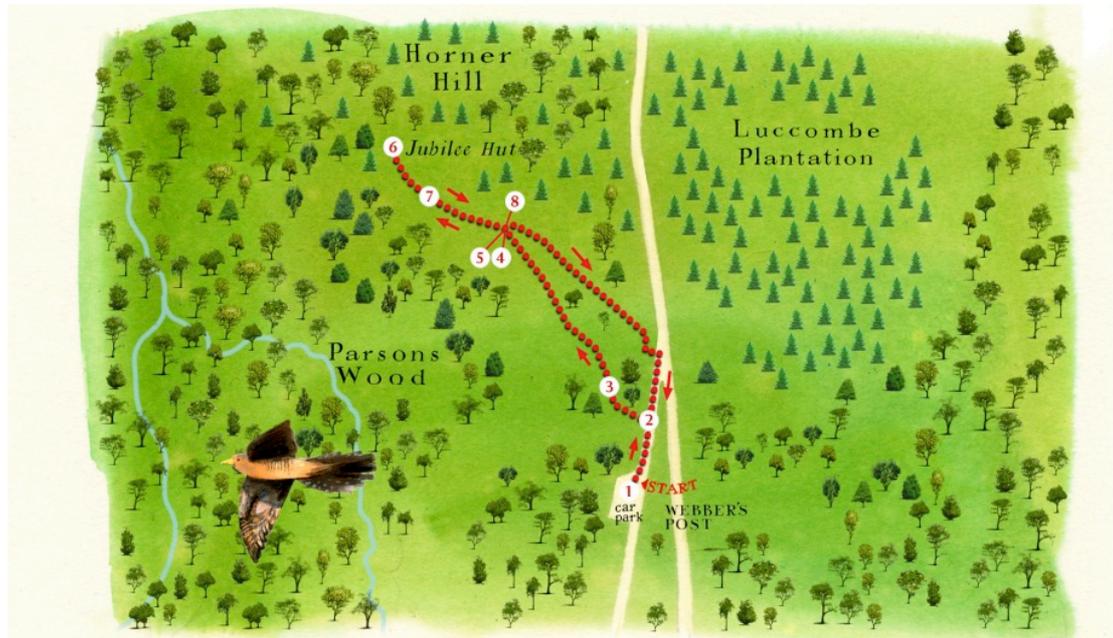
By bus: Quantock Motor
Services bus 39/300 stopping
along the A39 at Selworthy
Turn, approximately 2 miles
(3.2km) away

By train: Taunton mainline
station is 28 miles (45km)
away. West Somerset Railway
runs trains between Minehead
and Bishops Lydeard with a
bus link to Taunton station

By car: 4 miles (6.4km) west of
Minehead along A39. Turn off
for Luccombe and continue out
of the village towards Horner.
One mile after leaving the
village turn left at the Chapel
Cross crossroads and climb
half a mile (800 metres) up the
hill to Webbers Post

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1. Leave the main Webbers Post car park by the wooden information panel; you are at the start of the Webbers Post Easy Access Trail.

2. After a short distance the Easy Access Trail forks, take the left hand fork.

3. As you emerge from the woods you will see the first of several wooden sculptures that are dotted along the trail. The sculptures were created during Wood 2004, the international wood carving festival that was hosted on the estate. Shortly after the first sculpture, you will see the stone 'Acland' seat, which commemorates the gift of the Holnicote Estate to us by Sir Richard Acland in 1944.

4. Continue along the Easy Access Trail. Ignoring the signpost for the Priestway bridleway, follow the trail until you reach the next wooden signpost marked Permitted Bridleway to Horner - the Easy Access Trail begins to turn abruptly to the right at this point.

5. Leave the Easy Access Trail and follow the permitted bridleway to Horner. This is a great spot for finding wood ant nests, which are extremely active on warm, sunny days.

6. As you emerge from the woods you will see the wooden Jubilee Hut in front of you. It was originally constructed in 1897 to mark the diamond jubilee of Queen Victoria. This is a beautiful spot to stop for a while and take in the extensive panoramic views over the ancient Horner Woods, part of the Dunky and Horner Wood National Nature Reserve.

7. Retrace your route back to the Easy Access Trail.

8. Once you have rejoined the Easy Access Trail, turn left. Continue along the trail through the conifer plantation and past several more wooden sculptures back to the car park.

9. We hope that you really enjoyed this one-mile walk. The National Trust looks after some of the most spectacular areas of countryside for the enjoyment of all. We need your support to help us continue our work to cherish the countryside and provide access to our beautiful and refreshing landscapes. To find out more about how you too can help our work as a volunteer, member or donor please go to www.nationaltrust.org.uk
