

Draycott Sleights

Postcode: BS27 3SQ

UK Grid Ref: ST 486 513

what3words/// dignify.verve.bless

Overview

This species-rich, limestone grassland is particularly suitable for blue butterflies and has been owned by Somerset Wildlife Trust since 1986. Despite some minor quarrying and agriculture here in the early to mid-20th century, it has remained relatively untouched, acting as sheep pasture for centuries. Typical limestone plants like Thyme and Marjoram are found here.



Key Species

Chalkhill Blue, Brown Argus, Grizzled Skipper, Dingy Skipper, Wall Brown, Small Blue and the occasional **Adonis Blue** (May-September)

Other species of interest

Pyramidal and **Bee Orchids, Adders** and **Little Owls**

A pair of mating Chalkhill Blues (Alison Uren) and a view from Draycott Sleights (Angie Benoy)

Directions, Parking & Facilities

Draycott village is on the A371 between Cheddar and Wells and is served by the 126 bus route from both Weston-super-Mare and Wells. From Draycott village, it's a steep drive of about 2km up New Road (towards gliding club) where the entrance to Draycott Sleights can be found on the left. There is limited roadside parking hand side just past the entrance. There are no facilities on site, but a pub and a community shop can be found in Draycott village.

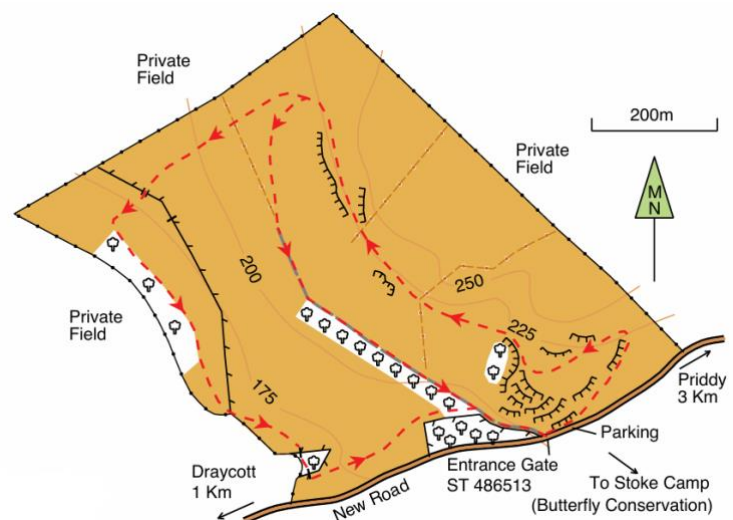


Access Conditions

Easy walk through the gate on New Road but strong walking boots are recommended because the site is rough and steep in some places. Dogs allowed (subject to seasonal restrictions).

Walk

Follow the green way-marking posts to take a circular walk around the reserve. Between 22-26 butterfly species are recorded here each year. **Dingy Skipper,**



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Grizzled Skipper, **Large Skipper** and **Small Skipper** tend to favour the lower slopes - whilst **Wall Browns** favour rocky areas suitable for basking. **Chalkhill Blues** can be found close to their larval food plant (**Horseshoe Vetch**) across the reserve. **Small Blues** may be found (in small numbers) in the area through the gate on the right-hand side as you come in from New Road. From the top of the site, there are excellent views of the Quantocks, Exmoor, Wales and the Bristol Channel on a fine day.

Website / Useful links:

<https://www.somersetwildlife.org/nature-reserves/draycott-sleights>

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