



HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS WALK



PLANT LIFE

Heather Heathlands are characterised by poor, acidic soils which is ideal for heather to grow. August is the best time to see the heathland burst into a purple haze of heather. The area contains three species of heather found in Britain - ling, bell and in the wetter areas, cross-leaved heath.

Unusual Plants The wet and boggy areas are of particular interest to botanists with a range of unusual plants such as pale butterwort, bog pimpernel and the insectivorous sundew (insect-eating) which uses its sticky hair covered leaves to attract its prey enabling it to draw its nutrients from them, allowing the plant to live in poor conditions.

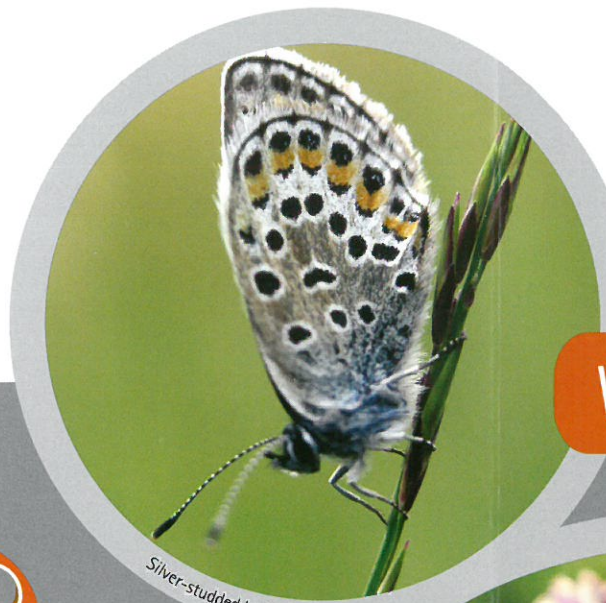


ANIMAL LIFE

Butterflies During the summer more than 30 species of butterfly are regularly recorded each year. Silver-washed fritillary, brimstone, grayling and the rare silver-studded blue can all be spotted. The male silver-studded blue provides a marvellous sight as they fly low over the heathland.



Walk 4: Four Firs Cross Circuit Walk



Silver-studded butterfly



THE EAST DEVON PEBBLEBED HEATHS CONSERVATION TRUST

The establishment of the East Devon Pebblebed Heaths Conservation Trust is a landmark in the history of the heaths and an important opportunity for their future. The Trust has been established to ensure that a sustainable plan is put in place to safeguard the future of the Pebblebed Heaths.

To date responsible management has resulted in dramatic heathland improvement with the return of many rare wildlife species. The heathland is located in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and has been recognised by both UK and European designations including a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Protection Area (SPA) and a Special Area of Conservation (SAC).



Sundew

Bell heather



EAST DEVON PEBBLEBED HEATHS CONSERVATION TRUST

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Walk 4

Four Firs Cross Circuit Walk

- 1) At the notice board take one of the tracks through the bank and head for the left hand corner of the trees on the skyline.
- 2) Head towards an old enclosure of trees which will be in front of you. Here you can take a short detour to the notice board and view point. Carry on walking in front of the enclosed tress and down a very steep pebbly scree slope. Cross over the stream. This wet area is great for spotting insectivorous plants, dragonflies and damselflies.
- 3) Climb up the pebbly slope with the quarry to your right. As you get to the top you will see some of the Royal Marines endurance course tunnels.
- 4) At the top there are several tracks, walk straight ahead.
- 4a) To avoid major wet and muddy area and as a short cut, turn left after the tunnels and trees, cross over the wet heath on good track, walk over the old butts, then up through bank walk left and onwards to 7.
- 5) Walk through the trees. The route is not well defined and can be very wet and muddy. When you reach edge of the plantation turn left up the pebbly hill.
- 6) Turn left and follow the track keeping high and close to the road. Walk through two banks and head towards the corner of the plantation.
- 7) At the track junction at the middle point of the plantation where you will see a fire break, turn left.
- 8) At the cross junction turn right back to the car park.

ROUTE: 4 km

TERRAIN: Moderate with steep incline -
can be very wet and muddy

PERMITTED:



BICTON COMMON

BLACKHILL
QUARRY
DANGER WORKING QUARRY