

Cribbs Causeway - Easter Compton - Spaniorum - Botany Bay

Distance: 3½ miles

Walking Time: 2 hours

GRADE: Easy/Moderate 3

1

This is a pleasant walk along country lanes and field footpaths, taking in the well-wooded landscape of Spaniorum Hill with fine views across the Severn Estuary and Vale of Berkeley. The walk starts down Hollywood Lane, a quiet road, and then goes across fields to Compton Greenfield Church at Easter Compton. A steady climb up Spaniorum Hill is followed by a descent to Botany Bay. A large section of the walk follows the Community Forest Path, a 45 mile path encircling the green spaces of Bristol and its surrounding countryside.

Maps:

Explorer 154

Bristol West & Portishead
1:25 000 scale

Landranger 172

Bristol & Bath
1:50 000 scale

Grid Ref:

ST 574 809



PUBLIC TRANSPORT INFORMATION

Bus

Take the no.1 service from St Augustines Parade in the centre or the 43/43A/54/54B on Colston Avenue to the Lamb & Flag pub on Cribbs Causeway. Both services operate frequently on weekdays and Saturday and slightly less so on Sundays and in the evenings. The no. 1 journey takes 30-35 minutes, the 43 takes 50-55 minutes and the 54 takes approx. 40 minutes. For the return journey catch the No. 1 service from Tormarton Crescent (Henbury).

We recommend you check your journey details by logging on to: www.firstgroup.com or by calling the Traveline number below.

PUBLIC HOUSES/CAFES EN ROUTE

The Lamb & Flag, Cribbs Causeway 0117 9501490

The Fox Inn, Easter Compton 01454 632220

CREDITS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

Sevenside Ramblers have provided information for this walk card.

PLACES AND FEATURES OF INTEREST

Hollywood Tower

Sir George White bought and refurbished the early nineteenth century house, complete with prominent folly, as a wedding present for his son. He spent much time there himself after the death of his wife. One of the first letters delivered by air arrived at Hollywood, when Stanley White weighted down a scrap of wing fabric and dropped the message "we shall be home for dinner". Henri Jullerot, in an aeroplane, circled the pram of George White's grandson with the intention of instilling a lifelong love of aircraft. On a water garden and a sheep dip on the estate, tests on a hydrofoil were carried out for a secret government department.

Botany Bay

Botany Bay was named from a terrace of fourteen cottages. These must have been remote, even by nineteenth century Henbury standards.



View towards Easter Compton and bridge

The section of path through Spaniorum Hill passes many bluebell woods such as Hakes Hill Wood. Look out for the greater spotted woodpecker here.



View up to Spaniorum Hill

Turn left into Meadowland Road and then left into Station Road. Catch the bus back to the city centre from the Tormarton Crescent bus stop.



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Easter Compton and Compton Greenfield

The name 'Compton' is derived from the words 'combe' meaning valley, and 'ton' meaning settlement. The area surrounding Easter Compton and its twin village Compton Greenfield owes much of its existence to the construction of the Severn Tunnel. During construction the population increased with many people moving in to join the workforce needed for the project. A fresh influx of people from both sides of the Severn inhabited the area when the tunnel came into use, spreading out toward Pilning.



Compton Greenfield Church

Compton Greenfield Church has a Norman tower and porch and was renovated in 1924 by local craftsmen. The church is no longer as remote as it was, but the churchyard still feels isolated. Note the sundial, which incorporates stone from the old font.

Spaniorum Hill

Spaniorum Hill lies on the Severn Ridge, which runs north-east from the Avon Gorge to Thornbury. The ridge is made up of steep slopes, with an undulating top. The area is dominated by the pattern of woodlands and fields and over 40% of its surface is covered by ancient woodland. Ancient woodlands are the most important woodlands for nature conservation as they are believed to have had continuous tree cover for a minimum period of 400 years. There are excellent views across the low-lying landscape below, characterised by flat open pastoral fields, low hedgerows, pollarded willow trees, rhynes and ditches. Although the majority of the walk is rural and Spaniorum Hill feels secluded and tranquil it does illustrate the industrial and transport history of the Bristol area. The turnpike road to Old and New Passage ran through Easter Compton until it was superseded by the railway a mile to the north and later, the M4 and Severn Bridge. To the east is the railway line built to serve Avonmouth Docks. To the west beyond the M5 is Filton.

