



By hook or by Crook... around the Peak



Start in King's Wood car park where the National Trust invites donations of £1. Dogs are welcome in the area but owners should note the 'free-roaming cattle' sign on the gate.

Go through the wooden gate at the back of the car park and take the track on the right going uphill.

Follow the track through the woodland continuing on the right. It will gradually get steeper until you reach a green at the top where glorious views await.



Continue on the track which runs along the stone wall on your right. The views get better as you continue. Look out for Cheddar reservoir in the distance and for the free-roaming ponies blocking the track!

The track will gradually get steeper again and you will climb up a steep hill. When you reach the top you will see Crook Peak. Here you can have a well-earned picnic while enjoying the extraordinary 360 degree views of the North Somerset coast, the Somerset levels and across to Cheddar and Wells.



How to get there

Start at map ref:
ST 422561

Car:
Park at the King's Wood car park off the A38 at Winscombe Hill

Bus:
126 Wells to Weston-super-Mare



Route information

Distance:

3 miles

Difficulty:

Some steep sections

Duration:

1.5 hours (including picnic time)

Map:

OS Explorer 141

Crook Peak has been an important landmark and boundary since early times. The origins of the name are unclear. Some believe the name 'Crook' comes from the old English 'cruc' meaning 'peak' or 'pointed hill' while others believe that the peak represents a witch's hat!

There are also cave deposits of interest on the south side of Crook Peak. Picken's Hole is of considerable importance because of its clear, well-stratified sequence of deposits and faunas.

To find out more about the history of this area, 'The Book of Winscombe' by local author Margaret Tucker is available in local libraries.

The book includes a wealth of knowledge about the area including a ghost story about local resident George Belcham. It was his desire that after his death he should be buried at the crossroads in Winscombe. He often repeated the words "If 'ee don't. I'll trouble 'ee". He did not get his wish as the village decided that he should be buried in the churchyard. However, exactly a year after his death heavy thuds were heard on his stairway, dancing across the floor, scattering tables and chairs. This strange episode was witnessed by several responsible villagers.

After your picnic, return to King's Wood car park the way you came, following the track that runs along the stone wall.



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