



Polden Way Footpath

... a seamless, signed, off-the-road footpath of around 6 miles

The **Polden Way** is a footpath project which links together areas of land with public access on the **Polden Hills** between **Walton**, near **Street**, and **Hurcot**, near **Somerton**. It has opened up a path through **King's Wood**: an area between **Combe Hill** and **Great Breach Wood** which previously had no public access.

Starting from the west end of **The Polden Way**, **Walton Hill**, **Ivythorn Hill**, and **Collard Hill** have been popular with, and accessible to generations of walkers. The project has improved some of the existing paths and views here, with trees and scrub being cut back. Around the **Hood Monument**, gates and fencing have been put up, stone has been laid on paths to make walking easier, and some trees have been cut back to open up viewing points. From here, the footpath winds its way on through **Hatch Hill**, another favourite spot with local walkers. This is one of a number of places along **The Polden Way** where, thanks to careful management and conservation, the *Large Blue Butterfly* can be found - hence the **The Polden Way's** butterfly logo!

Next is **Combe Hill Wood**: a well managed woodland, with good parking, spectacular viewing points and well maintained stoned paths, some of which are accessible to pushchairs and wheelchairs. The top part of **Combe Hill** is suitable for young children and the elderly or infirm. **Combe Hill** also features information boards explaining woodland management techniques and identifying flora and fauna to be found in the wood.

Moving south east, the new path goes on through **King's Wood**. This has been made possible by building steps and a bridge across the steep stream gully of **Combe Hollow**. Previously walkers had to make their way along a busy road to rejoin paths into **Great Breach Wood** at Wickham's Cross (where Christmas trees are sold). As the path heads through **King's Wood** views have been opened up towards the **Hood Monument** and across the levels, or 'moors' as they are known locally.

Finally **The Polden Way** leads on to the top of **Gilling Down**. From there the path wends in and out of **Great Breach Wood**, down towards **Hurcot**, where spectacular views can be enjoyed towards **Somerton** and across the moors.

In addition to the landscape and wildlife, there are other interesting features and buildings along **The Polden Way**. Some of these are shown inside this leaflet together with a simple map.

"Wonderful walking with spectacular views of Somerset"



Polden Way Footpath

The **Polden Way** was created by The Ninesquare Trust and J. & F. Clark Trust with support from The National Trust, Somerset Wildlife Trust, Butleigh Wootton Estate, Millfield School, The Forestry Commission, and Viridor. poldenway@gmail.com





Walton Windmill



The 'Chalet' YHA on Ivythorn Hill



Hood Monument



Carved Seat Combe Hill



On Hatch Hill looking westward



The bridge in Combe Hollow



Hurcot Hill from Hurcot



Follow the blue butterfly **Polden Way** signs.

These signs are on posts, stiles & gates all the way.

Map on the right shows the entire footpath route (approximately 6 miles).

Polden Way indicated by

Joining Public Footpaths indicated by

Convenient hard standing Car Parking indicated by Many other safe wide verges and pull-ins can be found.

For detailed area map see *Ordnance Survey Glastonbury & Street*, Sheet 42 / 53, Pathfinder 1238, 1:25000 scale.



Gilling Down & Tannager from the B3151 Compton Dundon - Somerton road