



John Clarke Walk

OVERBURY

The memorial walk follows various public rights of way across land which is owned by the Kemerton Estate and Overbury Enterprises. Much of this land is particularly important for wildlife and has been managed in partnership with Kemerton Conservation Trust for many years.



Arable Plant Areas – Oat Hill, Pad Piece & Tueswell Hill

Since the early 1980s, Kemerton Estate has experimented with untreated arable field margins where no farm chemicals are used. In these areas, rare 'arable weeds' have survived, including Venus's looking glass and rough poppy. John and Pamela's work with arable margins was instrumental in persuading governments to pay subsidies to farmers for leaving parts of fields untreated. Since 2021 the estate has left these 3 fields entirely untreated and unplanted to expand on this work. The best time to see these plants is from June to August.



Calcareous Grassland – Barn Piece, Round Hill SSSI, Quarry Field & Clay Furlong

The thin, limestone or 'calcareous' soils underlying this part of Bredon Hill give rise to pastures that are particularly rich in wildflowers, including pyramidal orchid, quaking grass, salad burnet and woolly thistle. The path runs alongside several such fields including Round Hill, which is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for its flora. The best time to see flowers is May to June.



Wildflower Rich Verges – Oat Hill Track, Pad Barn Track & Westmancote Track

Some of the tracks along the route are ancient in origin and their verges contain a profusion of wildflowers, including field scabious, greater knapweed, common calamint, restharrow and meadow cranesbill. These verges attract a wide range of insects including butterflies, moths, bees, flies, beetles and glow-worms. The best time to see flowers and insects is from June to August.



Wood Pasture and Woodland – Westmancote Hill, Oat Hill Meadow, Quarry Field & Quarry Wood

Recently created Wood-pasture can be seen in Westmancote Hill and Oathill Meadow. This mosaic habitat of grassland and open-grown trees grazed by livestock provides excellent habitat for wildflowers, invertebrates, birds and bats. The new wood pasture connects via existing wood pasture in Quarry Field to Quarry Wood, which was planted with John's assistance in 1984. This woodland consists largely of beech trees, underplanted with yew, box and holly. It provides habitat for birds such as chiffchaff, blackcap and goldcrest. The best time to hear birdsong is from March to June.



Access

The route of this walk follows public rights of way. Please keep to the paths and prevent dogs from running in to the fields to avoid disturbing wildlife. Please take nothing but photographs and leave nothing but footprints.

Please park with consideration for villagers and be aware that large farm vehicles or emergency vehicles may need access.

The walk starts on the public footpath by Oat Hill Cottage, Westmancote, GL20 7ES, [what3words ///silly.exacts.subsystem](#)