

# Bovey Basin Wild Walk



**Devon**

## Details

- **Approx time:** three hours
- **Approx length:** four and a half miles
- **Terrain:** Mainly level with some slopes, stiles and rough ground
- **Start:** Bovey Heathfield (SX 824 765)
- **Child friendly:** Suitable for children,
- **Dog friendly:** Dogs on leads
- **Refreshments:** Pubs and shops in Chudleigh Knighton and Heathfield
- **Public Transport:** Stagecoach 39



Little Bradley Ponds

## Species to look out for

- Grass snake
- Nightjar
- Grayling
- Narrow headed ant
- Stonechat
- Golden-ringed dragonfly
- Bog asphodel
- Dodder
- Green hairstreak
- Bell heather
- Green woodpecker
- Adder
- Dartford warbler (right)



Dartford Warbler (Chris Root)

## Introduction

This walk takes in DWT's three heathland nature reserves; Bovey Heathfield, Little Bradley Ponds and Chudleigh Knighton Heath. All lie close to Bovey tracey in what is known as the Bovey Basin.

The walk is mainly on bridle paths and minor roads and is approximately four and half miles so will provide a good afternoon's

entertainment. There are some short stretches of main road: care needs to be taken here.

The route will provide stunning views of Dartmoor, tranquil ponds buzzing with dragonflies and open expanses of heathland filled with the sound of rare birds such as the Dartford warbler along with the rustle of reptiles.

## Contact details

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## Directions

1) Park on Dragoon Close next to DWT's Bovey Heathfield nature reserve (SX 824 765, Postcode TQ12 6TU) within the Heathfield Industrial Estate. Walk up to the reserve along the track to the signed entrance.

Follow the main path up to the plateau where there are great views of this lowland heath site and Dartmoor. Bear right along the path towards two large factories to the boundary where you will find a stile onto a main road (Old Newton Road).

2) Turn right and walk along the road until you come to the King Charles Business Park. Turn into the business park and straight ahead you will see another DWT Bovey Heathfield sign and gate, this is the entrance to the nature reserve's second compartment.

Go through this gate and take the path which leads you straight on then bare right until you reach a kissing gate. Go through this and turn right, follow the bridle path for 400yards until you come to another gate. Go straight through this, past houses on your right until reaching a road junction.

3) Turn left at this road junction continue past Moor View Primary School and follow the road for 300yards over the river until you come to The Old Stable/Little Bovey

Farm. Follow the road round to the left for another mile until you reach the end of the lane where you will find Little Bradley Ponds nature reserve.

4) Walk around the two main ponds, there is a bench looking down over the eastern pond where you can stop for a break. Leave the nature reserve and retrace your steps south back down the lane until you reach The Old Stable.

5) Once back at the Old Stable turn left and follow a public bridle path. Follow this until you reach the sign for Chudleigh Knighton Heath nature reserve. Bear right here and follow the path until you reach a line of telegraph poles. Turn left at gate and follow boundary until you come to a concrete post, take the path on left. Turn left at a water trough and follow the path back to the reserve entrance where you came in.

6) Leave Chudleigh Knighton Heath and make your way back to the bridle path back down to the Old Stable. Once at this point head back along the road over the river and back onto the bridle path by the school. Turn right back along the bridle path to the second compartment of Bovey Heathfield and follow your footsteps back to your starting point at Bovey Heathfield nature reserve entrance.

