



## Visitors' Guide to Cleeve Common



# Welcome to Cleeve Common

*"In one hundred years' time, visitors to Cleeve Common will enjoy the same sense of space and tranquillity, with the diversity of plant and animal life, as they do today"*

### A Site of Special Scientific Interest

With an area of over 400 hectares, Cleeve Common is one of the most extensive areas of natural limestone grassland in Gloucestershire. It is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for both its geological and botanical interest. It is situated within the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

### Archaeology and Geology

Cleeve Common has three Scheduled Ancient Monuments: The Cross Dyke, the Hill Fort and The Ring. It also has a geological SSSI, Rolling Bank Quarry, where you can see unique geological exposures. Archaeology and geology features are shaded in red on the map.

### Plant and Animal Life

Cleeve Common is a major stronghold for natural limestone grassland, having never been fertilised, sprayed or ploughed. The sward, or grass area, contains a diverse range of interesting wild flowers. Some of these are very rare. Many of the species would have been familiar throughout our countryside prior to the post-war intensification of farming but are now sadly much less widespread.

The species-rich sward provides habitat and food for a huge variety insects, birds, reptiles and mammals. The old quarries and gorse thickets add to this variety of wildlife habitats.

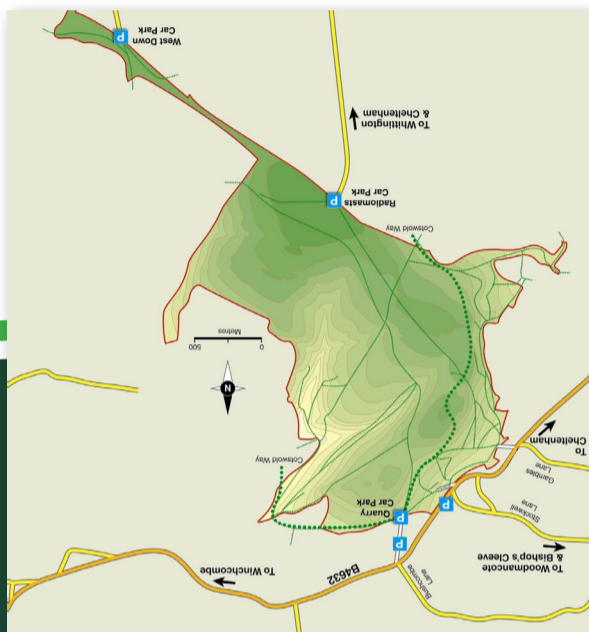


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Cleeve Common is four miles north east of Cheltenham. Parking is available at five main locations as the above map shows. To reach the Golf Club entrance, turn off the B4632 at the summit of Cleeve Hill. Park in Quarry car park (Grid reference S0989272, nearest postcode GL52 3PW). Note that this car park is locked at night, at 8 pm during British Summer Time and at 5 pm GMT. From the south side of the common use the Radio Masts car park (Grid reference S0994249, nearest postcode GL54 4EU) or West Down car park (Grid reference SP009239 nearest postcode GL54 5TL). There are no public toilets on the Common.

### How to find us?



- Looking After Cleeve Common Together:**
- Keep dogs under close control at all times and on a lead around sheep and cattle. Sheep are present from April until November.
  - Close gates to stop sheep or cattle escaping.
  - It is essential to pick up after your dog. Place all dog waste in the bins provided. Don't leave plastic mess bags anywhere on the Common.
  - Keep off the golf course greens and tees; take care when crossing fairways.
  - Take all litter home with you.
  - Use the activity area for flying kites, kite-boarding and ball games.
  - Keep off all areas cordoned with temporary fencing. Respect temporary cattle paddocks and only use gates to pass into these areas.
  - Motor vehicles are strictly prohibited on the Common.
  - It is an offence to pick flowers, camp, light fires or barbecues. **Please note that all activities on the Common are carried out at the participant's own risk.**



### Management

Managing Cleeve Common is all about achieving the right balance between the needs of wildlife and the people who visit so that each may share this unique space for many years to come.



Continuous monitoring of the Common is critical in ensuring the continued existence of a diverse number of species whether they are common or rare. Controlling the spread of scrub and coarse grass is the main priority and this is mainly achieved through grazing by cattle.

If you would like to volunteer your time with us as a warden, events volunteer or by monitoring our grassland please send us an email. [info@cleevecommon.org.uk](mailto:info@cleevecommon.org.uk)

### Cleeve Common Trust

Like many other commons, Cleeve Common is privately owned. What makes it a 'Common', is that certain local landowners have grazing rights, entitling them to graze specified numbers of sheep, cattle and other animals between April and November.

Today the Common is managed for public benefit by a charity, Cleeve Common Trust, whose voluntary Board members are appointed by local councils.

