

CAR FREE DAYS OUT CL08

... how to enjoy St Austell without the car!



Grid Ref
A:1



Goss Moor Trail

7 mile (12km) circular trail on mostly level ground suitable for walking, cycling, horse riding and wheelchair or mobility scooters.

Open access all year round

Bicycle Hire available at Screech Owl Sanctuary
Tel: (01726) 861545

How to get to the Goss Moor without the car! From the St Austell bus station take the service bus 521 to Newquay and alight at Indian Queens. Follow Moorland Road which takes you through the village and follow signs for the Screech Owl Sanctuary, the start of the trail.

See grid ref 'A1' on the St Austell Discovery Map



Goss Moor Trail

A national nature reserve

Goss Moor is a National Nature Reserve with a unique mixture of wetland and heathland which forms the headwaters of the River Fal. Because of the rich diversity of flora and fauna this area has been designated a Site of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSI) and is home to many breeding birds including Reed Bunting, Linnet, Grasshopper Warbler, Bullfinch and Song Thrush. Most importantly however this is one of the main breeding areas in England for the rare Marsh Fritillary Butterfly.

The moor has a wonderful 12km circular trail that winds its way around this little known area. The trail has been well surfaced with residue from the clay industry

Screech Owl Sanctuary at the start of the trail is an interesting centre involved in conservation education, rehabilitation of injured and sick owls and runs a captive owl breeding program. Here you can hire a bicycle to use on the trail, hire monies collected goes towards this worthwhile sanctuary. The flat landscape makes for easy cycling!

Passing the Sanctuary the road takes you over the new A30 road and onto the circular



trail. This trail has opened up access to a wonderful nature reserve, an area that was once virtually inaccessible by foot. As you follow the trail watch out for signs for the 'Butterfly Trail', accessible only by foot, where you may spy the rare Marsh Fritillary Butterfly.

On your return to the Owl Sanctuary you may want to stop awhile for a drink in their tea room before returning to Indian Queens to take the bus home.

Plans are to link this area with the china clay trails so that in the not too distant future it will be possible to walk, cycle or ride from the very heart of St Austell to the Goss Moor.

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