



# VARIETY SHOW

This ramble in south-west Wales takes you through farmland, woodland and coastal scenery. **Jo Vaughan** is your guide



Ordnance Survey Landranger Map 158

**T**HIS WALK, based around the National Trust's Colby Woodland Garden, may be a 30-minute drive from the stunning Freshwater East Club site, but you can make a full day of it. You should also try to see something of the garden itself – or linger longer on the short piece of coastline we stroll past at Amroth, which has the added attraction of a variety of ice-cream bars and cafés.

As our walk doesn't broach the Garden's perimeter, you don't have to fork out the Trust's entrance charge of £4.60 for adults

and £2.30 for children – but it's well worth the fee if you have time to look around. Please be aware that the road leading to the Colby Lodge car park (the Colby Woodland Garden overflow car park) and our starting point is very narrow, though I arrived in a 26ft-long motorhome!

## DIRECTIONS

**1** Exit the car park and turn left at the road. Continue uphill. At the T-junction, turn right and continue along the roadside. Follow the road around to the left (as you

pass the church on your right), but soon, when the road bends around to the right, look for a metal gate on the left and a partially obscured footpath sign. Pass over the adjacent (slightly overgrown) stile and continue ahead, along the footpath.

**2** Go through the kissing gate and continue ahead (the path descends quite steeply). Cross the wooden bridge over the small river and walk up the more major track ahead.

**3** At the farmyard there's a post with a yellow arrow on it – follow this, veering

to the right to walk alongside the right-hand wall of the cow-shed (do not go up the adjacent main track that is a sharper turn to your right). From a distance it looks as though the path stops here, but it continues after a 90° left turn at the shed's rear corner, following the direction of another signpost towards the farmhouse.

**4** Having passed between two metal gates, turn immediately right, following the yellow arrow up a concrete lane. Walk over the cattle grid and then, at the crossroads, turn right following the horse symbol on the footpath post. At the circle of metal gates you'll see the one on your left has a wooden gate next to it. Pass through this and continue ahead, following the blue arrow downhill. Keep to this muddy bridgeway, ignoring the more minor tracks that head off on either side, but keeping right where there's a definite fork in the main route. Continue downhill.

**5** Keep going! Eventually you'll pass a house on your right, but you should carry on along the bridgeway through the wooded valley. At the bottom of the lane walk between two houses and continue onto the promenade. Cross the road to the sea wall and turn right.

**6** Keep going along the promenade (or the beach) until you pass a row of houses and you can see a flagpole bearing the Welsh flag. Having returned to the road (if you had veered off onto the sand), go past the flagpole (following the same direction – west), and then the ice-cream bars, the bus stop and, finally, more public toilets. Just to the right of the toilets, you'll see a public footpath sign marked 'Coast Path'. Follow this, up through the trees via a flight of steps.

**7** Veer right at the top of the steps, following a yellow arrow, and then pass through a gate and continue uphill. Soon



## CENTRE ACTIVITIES

Extend your stay in Freshwater East by finding out whether a Centre rally is taking place in the area. To search, log onto [caravanclub.co.uk/rallies](http://caravanclub.co.uk/rallies).

you'll see a wooden gate on your right – go through this and turn right down a lane, passing a National Trust sign. Go through another wooden gate and continue up the road ahead of you.

**8** Turn left at the main road, then soon follow a green pathway sign to your right, passing the front of the cream-coloured house ('Groveside'). Continue until you leave the last house behind and the path turns into a grassy track. Head through the kissing gate and carry on.

**9** Keep right as the path forks to continue past a dilapidated wooden kissing gate (you are still heading downhill). At a crossroads, where there's a wooden gate in

front of you, turn right and then (soon after) right again across a small wooden bridge over a pretty stream.

**10** Continue up the track for a fairly short distance to a public footpath signpost where you turn sharply left, marked 'Colby'. Continue through the metal gate and then straight ahead (signposted 'Cwns Lane'). This path now runs next to Colby Woodland Garden.

**11** Turn right just before the National Trust café, following the signs to the car park. This takes you past the reception building. At the car park, walk out through the main entrance and turn right up the road. The car park where you started is on your left.

The Caravan Club Magazine recommends the use of Ordnance Survey maps – your ideal passport to navigating Britain



## INFORMATION

**Club site:** Freshwater East Caravan Club Site, Trewent Hill, Freshwater East, Pembrokeshire SA71 5LJ. Open 25 March to 10 October. Call 01646 672341 or see [caravanclub.co.uk/searchandbook](http://caravanclub.co.uk/searchandbook).

**Distance:** 3.5 miles/5.6km

**Terrain:** easy paths with a couple of sharp inclines

**Number of stiles:** 1

**Essential equipment:** Ordnance Survey Explorer OL36 map – South Pembrokeshire

**Level of difficulty:** easy to moderate (easy with a couple of steep climbs on good tracks)

**Refreshments:** along seafront

**Directions and parking:** follow the signs for National Trust Colby Woodland Garden, just north of Amroth. Park in Colby Lodge car park (Garden overflow car park).

**Toilets:** on promenade



