

## Whitestone

### Distance and time

Allow 20 minutes for the shorter walk on surfaced track, with time to stop at the viewpoints (approx 800m). Allow 45 minutes for the longer route to the top of Cleddon Shoots (approx 2 km).

### Brief description of the walk and path conditions

This is a linear walk, with a short walk on well surfaced forest tracks visiting viewpoints offering superb views up the Wye Valley beyond Llandogo. There are several benches from which to enjoy the views.

*Gradients are gentle throughout the walk.*

It is possible to extend the walk for a mile or so to the top of Cleddon Shoots where a stream tumbles down the hillside towards the Wye.

*The path conditions on the extended walk are rough in places, with exposed tree roots, but it is fairly level, without barriers such as stiles.*

*There are no benches or seating places on the extended route.*

*Please note that in wet conditions paths with natural surfaces can become more uneven and difficult to negotiate.*

### Start point for the walk and facilities

Whitestone Forestry Commission picnic and forest site on Tintern to Catbrook road. Parking is free and plentiful. There is a good children's adventure playground, toilets near the site entrance (including disabled) though these are locked in winter. There are also interpretation panels about the forest.

### Relevant OS Map

Outdoor Leisure Map 14 – Wye Valley and Forest of Dean

### Detailed Walk description

From the main vehicle access track follow the Wye Valley Walk signs past a forest barrier. The path is rolled stone, and climbs gently uphill.

The woods are mainly beech and oak here.

Continue on this path as it bends to the left. You will soon reach the first viewpoint near a viewpoint sign, where there is a bench providing a perfect spot to rest and enjoy the view up the Wye Valley.

Continue along the track which levels out and then climbs gently again. Soon you will reach a second viewpoint on the right overlooking Llandogo and the Wye. The third viewpoint is a little further up the hill in a clearing, and probably offers the best view up the valley. After resting on the bench, retrace your steps to the parking area.

**The extended walk** has an uneven surface with some large loose stones and exposed tree roots. It is an easy walk of a little less than a mile in total; care is needed not to trip on exposed roots and stones. Some sections may be muddy after rain. There is no seating on this part of the route.

From the last viewpoint continue to follow the Wye Valley Walk signs, where the route leaves the forest track to join a more uneven path alongside conifers. Soon you will join a track between old, stone walls, and with a large house on the left. Take care here as the path is especially rough underfoot, gently sloping downhill. At the path crossing, continue straight on, listening out for the sound of the waterfalls approaching Cleddon Shoots just ahead. Cross the bridge over the Cleddon stream, where it tumbles downhill at a very pleasant spot. Retrace your steps to return to Whitestone car park.