

7. As the trail climbs, notice the changes from the mallee vegetation to the lower growing thorn wattle (*acacia continua*) and spinifex *Triodia irritans*.

8. Near the sign marking **4.5 km to the car park**, there are views to the south west along the airstrip back to Hiltaba homestead. Once one reaches the ridge, there are views to the east, towards Lake Acraman.

Continue along the ridge which is dominated by the rock platforms with evidence of eroded and weathered surfaces, and hollows often holding water for weeks after rain. Although spinifex is the dominant vegetation here, a variety of wild flowers emerge in winter and spring, particularly after rain.

9. Approximately 200m prior to the ridge top cairn, a number of large rock platforms make walking easier. Soon after the cairn, the descent commences on a well-marked track.

Please keep to the track, to reduce erosion.

10. The sign marking 3 km to the car park is found above steep rocky cliff face on the west. Take care to stay on the trail here, as there are many loose rocks.

As the trail leaves the ridge, walkers descend into stands of melaleuca, occasional grevillea, spinifex and various acacia.

11. Stop to look back at the rock face.



12. Car park 2 km The trail continues to descend through stands of mallee with melaleuca and spinifex.



13 Car park 1.5 km
Large boulder beside the trail.

200 metres on, there are again rock platforms of volcanic rocks, with a number of boulders where there is evidence of significant weathering on the cooler, damper, undersides of these rocks.



14. There is a large eremophila on the right of the trail.

15. Plants in this area include various casuarina, It may be possible to identify different species from various seed pods under these trees

The walking trail gently descends through the mallee woodland with occasional taller eucalypts back to the carpark.

Please do sign the Registration Book on completion of this walk.

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Nature Foundation SA

Barbara Hardy Walking Trail

The Nature Foundation welcomes you to Hiltaba Nature Reserve. This is one of our flagship Reserves, and we're proud of the conservation and scientific work that we and our partners do here.

The Barbara Hardy Walking Trail is about 6 km in length. It contains rough and steep terrain and should only be attempted by those experienced in such conditions, with adequate supply of water and suitable clothing and footwear.

- ❖ **Before you set off ...**
Please ensure you've advised the Hiltaba Manager of your departure and entered your name in the book. (Please also note your return in the book when you have completed the walk).
- ❖ Bring all food and plenty of water.

Getting started. The Walking Trail commences 7.6 km from the Hiltaba Homestead. It is able to be reached by 2 w.d. in dry conditions following the directions below. (Distances are measured from the Hiltaba homestead.)

100 metres from the Homestead just past the white gate take left fork (North).

0.4 km turn left at main road (North), then turn immediately right down station track. At 0.6 km pass sign indicating "7km to BHWT",

1.5 km. Veer left, follow marked arrow.

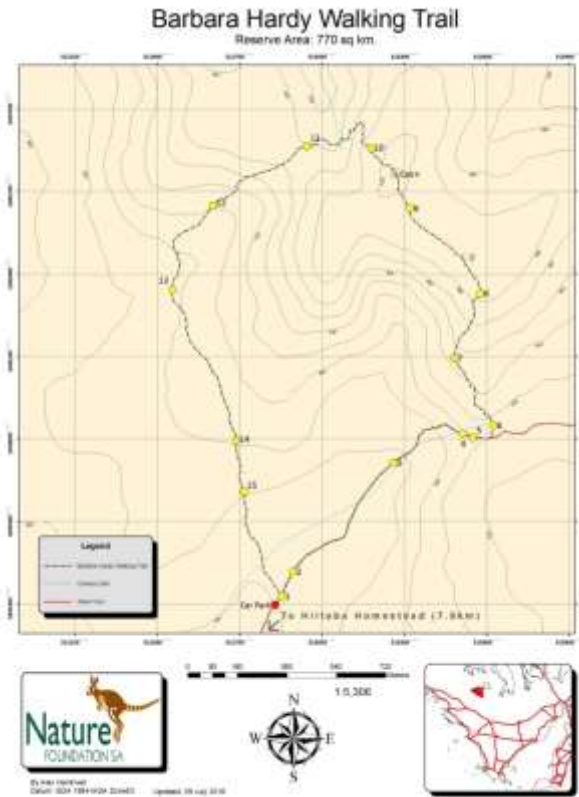
2.5 km. Start Air Strip and then 4.3, end air strip.

4.5 km. Veer right at sign "3km BHWT", then

6.6 km. Cross creek.

7.6 km. Arrive at car park and sign "BHWT walk start".

The numbers in this brochure relate to points on the map.



1. The walking trail commences following the vehicle track for 1.3 km.



2. 100m on left note the native apricot *Pittosporum angustifolium*



3. 700m from the carpark, note the Bullock Bush *Alectryon oleifolius* on left of the track.

Walkers follow the vehicle track through mallee woodlands, bluebush and spinifex. The vehicle track now winds through steeper sections littered with granite boulders.

The mallee (*Eucalyptus gracilis*), is a dominant species in this area.

4. 1.2 km from car park. Note the still in use pastoral property vegetation monitoring peg on RHS of track. These photo points are used to monitor vegetation condition on all pastoral leases in SA.



5. Crossing a small creek, on left is a large black oak *Casuarina pauper*.



6. At 1.3 km, the trail leaves the vehicle track and climbs steeply through granite tors and boulders.

These granite tors, are of a Precambrian volcanic rock

where water has penetrated down the major joints, leading to further subsurface weathering, and as the land surface has lowered, debris which has been deposited in gaps between corestones is removed, and the tor boulders are exposed.

As the walking trail leaves the vehicle track, vegetation changes to tea tree species (*melaleuca*), various acacia, native hop bush (*dodonea*) and grevillea. These plants are able to extend their roots into the cracks in the rocks to reach water which has seeped into these spaces.



Dodonea



Gawler Ranges Grevillea *

* Endemic to the Gawler Ranges