

KINGCOMBE MEADOWS

Spanning the full width of the valley of the River Hooke, around the hamlet of Lower Kingcombe, lies Kingcombe Meadows, a striking tract of unspoilt countryside. Nearby is the equally unspoilt ancient woodland area of Powerstock Common nature reserve. These combined regions total around 300 ha (741 acres) and offer the visitor a wonderful opportunity to explore remote, quiet parts of west Dorset. A day visit will give you a taste of the locality but if you wish to stay longer, accommodation is available at The Kingcombe Centre set in the middle of Kingcombe Meadows, together with a café serving locally sourced food. (Cafe open Fri - Sun 10am - 4pm and all week in the school holidays). Check out events, activities, workshops and courses at The Kingcombe Centre www.kingcombe.org

Wildlife interest: Typical wildflowers in woodland & marshy areas. The grassy meadows support many common species & also **lady's mantle, corky-fruited water dropwort, pepper saxifrage, devil's-bit scabious & knapweed**. Butterflies include varieties of **skipper & fritillaries**. Birds abound with visiting summer **warblers** and woodland birds.



ACCESS

Kingcombe Meadows

There are two marked trails across the reserve which can be followed as a short circular walk in the centre of the reserve or as a longer circular walk (see map overleaf).

There is also an exploration area, suitable for tramper vehicles, when ground conditions allow.

Parking available at The Kingcombe Centre (map ref SY555991 & map ref SY554990) & Copse Close (map ref ST554006).

Powerstock Common via Kingcombe Meadows

The reserve may be reached on foot using both public footpaths and country lanes.

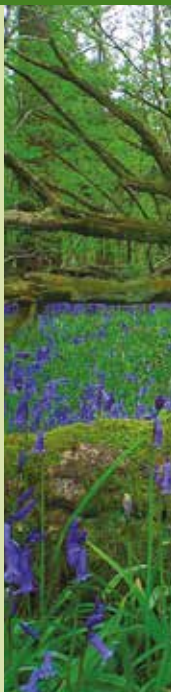
By car from Kingcombe - on the lane between Lower Kingcombe and Toller Porcorum is a signpost for Powerstock. Take this and then take the first (unsignposted) lane. At a T junction turn left downhill, under a disused railway bridge and Powerstock Common car park is on the right, map ref. SY 547974.



POWERSTOCK COMMON

Powerstock Common nature reserve has a mixture of habitats including woodland with open grassy areas along the line of the disused Maiden Newton to Bridport railway line as well as interesting hedgebanks and numerous small ponds. Superb views can be glimpsed of Dorset's coastline. Much of the reserve is accessible for the less able as a wide hard track runs through the centre of the reserve. A nature trail is waymarked (uneven surface).

Wildlife interest: Resident woodland bird species include **nuthatch & great spotted woodpecker** together with a number of migrants such as **willow warbler** and **chiffchaff**. **Fallow deer** may be seen within the woodland. Wildflowers include **bluebell, pendulous sedge, bee orchid, rock rose, dyers greenweed** and **devil's-bit scabious**. **Speckled wood** and **wood white, marsh fritillary** and **brown argus** butterflies. Superb for **newts** and **dragonflies** in the ponds.



GETTING THERE

By train: Services are infrequent and require planning ahead. Useful information can be viewed at www.transportdirect.info.

Train stations:

4 miles from Maiden Newton (Bristol to Weymouth line)

12 miles from Dorchester South (London Waterloo to Weymouth line)

9 miles from Crewkerne (London Waterloo to Exeter St. David's line)

By car: from the A356, take the turning to Toller Porcorum. In the village, turn right, signposted Hooke & Lower Kingcombe.

By bicycle: Plans are underway to establish a traffic-free bike/walkers path along the 10 miles of disused railway line running from Maiden Newton to Bridport. The old line runs along the southern edge of Kingcombe Meadows & the northern edge of Powerstock Common nature reserves.

By foot: public footpaths/bridleways cross the reserve including 2 long distance trails, the Wessex Ridgeway & Jubilee Trail.

Dorset Wildlife Trust, Brooklands Farm,
Forston, Dorchester, Dorset DT2 7AA
01305 264620

enquiries@dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk
www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk



The
KINGCOMBE
CENTRE



DORSET
WILDLIFE
TRUST

KINGCOMBE MEADOWS

nature reserve

and nearby

POWERSTOCK COMMON

nature reserve

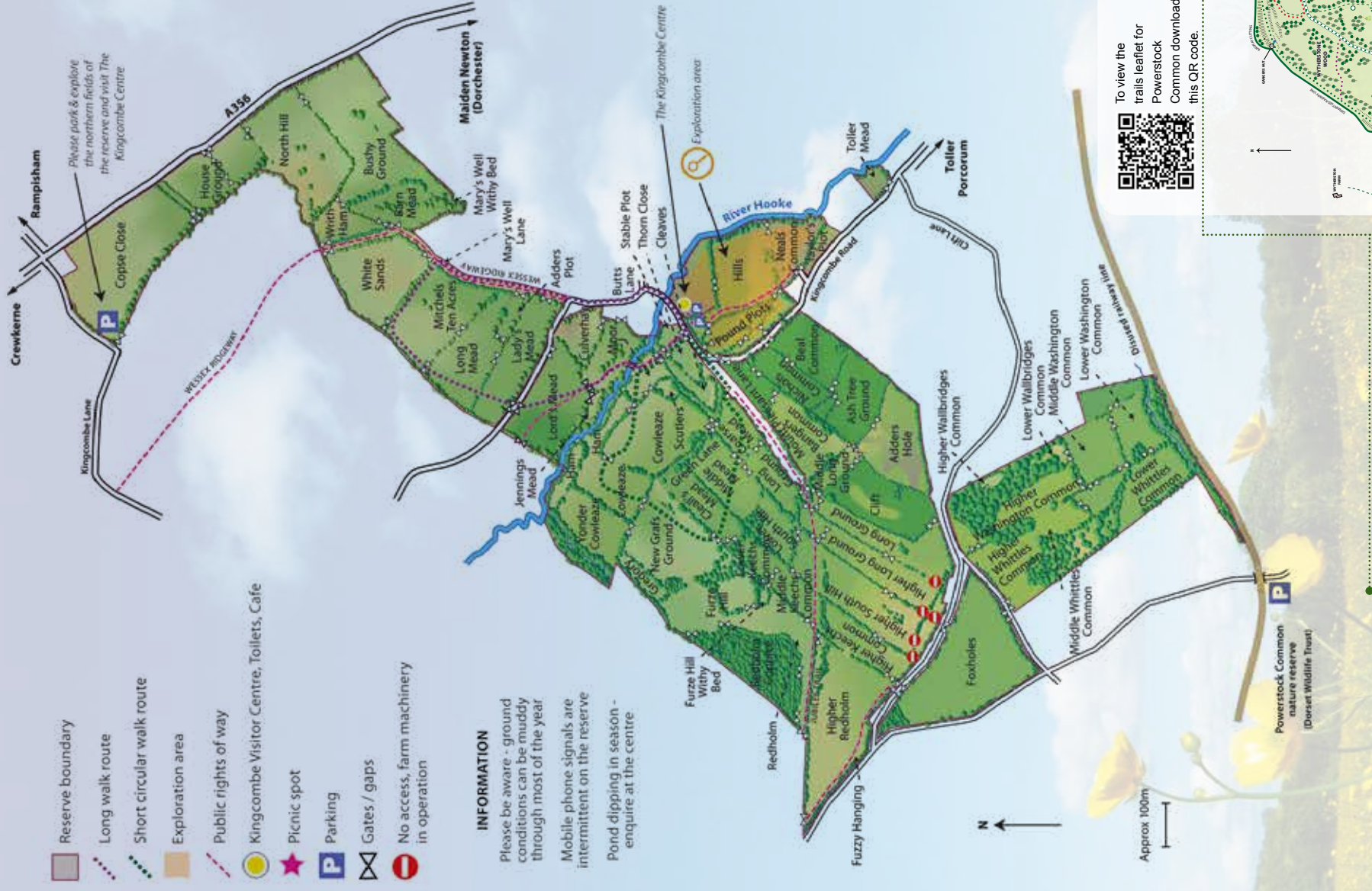
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Protecting **Wildlife** for the future

KINGCOMBE MEADOWS NATURE RESERVE



- Reserve boundary
- Long walk route
- Short circular walk route
- Exploration area
- Public rights of way
- Kingcombe Visitor Centre, Toilets, Cafe
- Picnic spot
- Parking
- Gates / gaps
- No access, farm machinery in operation

INFORMATION

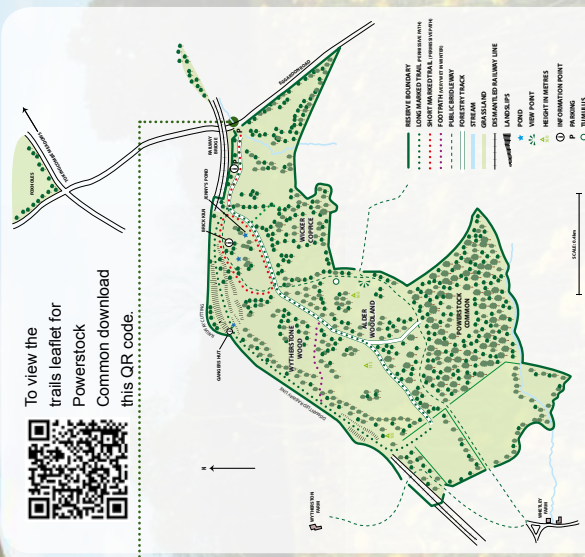
Please be aware - ground conditions can be muddy through most of the year

Mobile phone signals are intermittent on the reserve

Pond dipping in season - enquire at the centre

PLEASE NOTE

- Visitors are welcome to walk over fields on the reserve, subject to restrictions due to haymaking and the presence of livestock.
- Beware of ticks, especially in long grass, bracken and scrub.
- Keep away from cattle - cows with calves can be dangerous.
- Guard against fire



To view the trails leaflet for Powerstock Common download this QR code.

POWERSTOCK COMMON NATURE RESERVE

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