

Explore the reserve

Kingcombe Meadows, Lower Kingcombe,
Toller Porcorum, Dorchester, Dorset DT2 0EQ

© Lucy Ferris
Cover photo
© James Burland



Kingcombe National Nature Reserve

Kingcombe Meadows

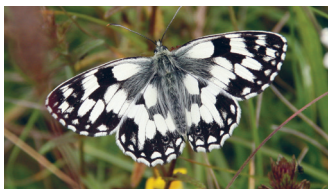
Gateway to the Kingcombe National Nature Reserve (KNNR), Kingcombe Meadows is a beautiful patchwork of small fields of unimproved flower-rich grassland divided by thick hedgerows, rough pasture, streams, ponds, ancient green lanes and woodlands spreading up the valley either side of the River Hooke. The reserve is managed as a traditional working farm without the use of pesticides or artificial fertilizer and grazed by cattle, sheep and ponies. A variety of soil types provides habitat for a huge range of plant and animal species and in the summer, the reserve brims with wildflowers and butterflies.

Kingcombe National Nature Reserve

Kingcombe Meadows and nearby Powerstock Common nature reserve were declared a National Nature Reserve by Natural England in 2021. This designation secures their future as part of a growing national nature recovery network to provide vital space for nature to spread and regenerate.



Bee orchid © Lizzie Wilberforce



Marbled white © Jim Higham



Great crested newt © John Bridges

Location

Kingcombe Meadows is located 4 miles north-west of Maiden Newton.
Nearest railway station is at Maiden Newton.

Parking

The main car park is at the visitor centre with a small overflow car park 75 metres away from the centre. Cycle parking is available.

Access

Access to the reserve is via field, bridle or kissing gates; tracks are unsurfaced and wet in places. Disabled parking space available in the visitor centre car park and there is a wheelchair-accessible toilet.

T: 01300 320684 | E: kingcombe@dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk



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Dorset Wildlife Trust HQ, Brooklands Farm,
Forston, Dorchester, Dorset, DT2 7AA

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