

# Explore the reserve

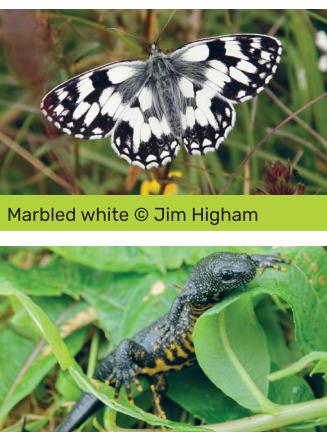
**G**ateway to the Kingcombe National Nature Reserve (KNNR), Kingcombe Meadows is a beautiful patchwork of small fields of unimproved flower-rich grassland divided by thick hedgerows, rough pasture, streams, ponds, ancient green lanes and woodlands spreading up the valley either side of the River Hooke. 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

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

© Lucy Ferris  
Cover photo  
© James Burland

### 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.

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### Help us protect Dorset's wildlife

With the support of our members, Dorset Wildlife Trust champions wildlife and wild places in Dorset and manages **40 nature reserves** and **four visitor centres**. Entry to all our nature reserves is free of charge but you can contribute by becoming a member, making a donation or volunteering your time. Find out more about supporting us at [dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk)

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## Kingcombe National Nature Reserve

# Kingcombe Meadows

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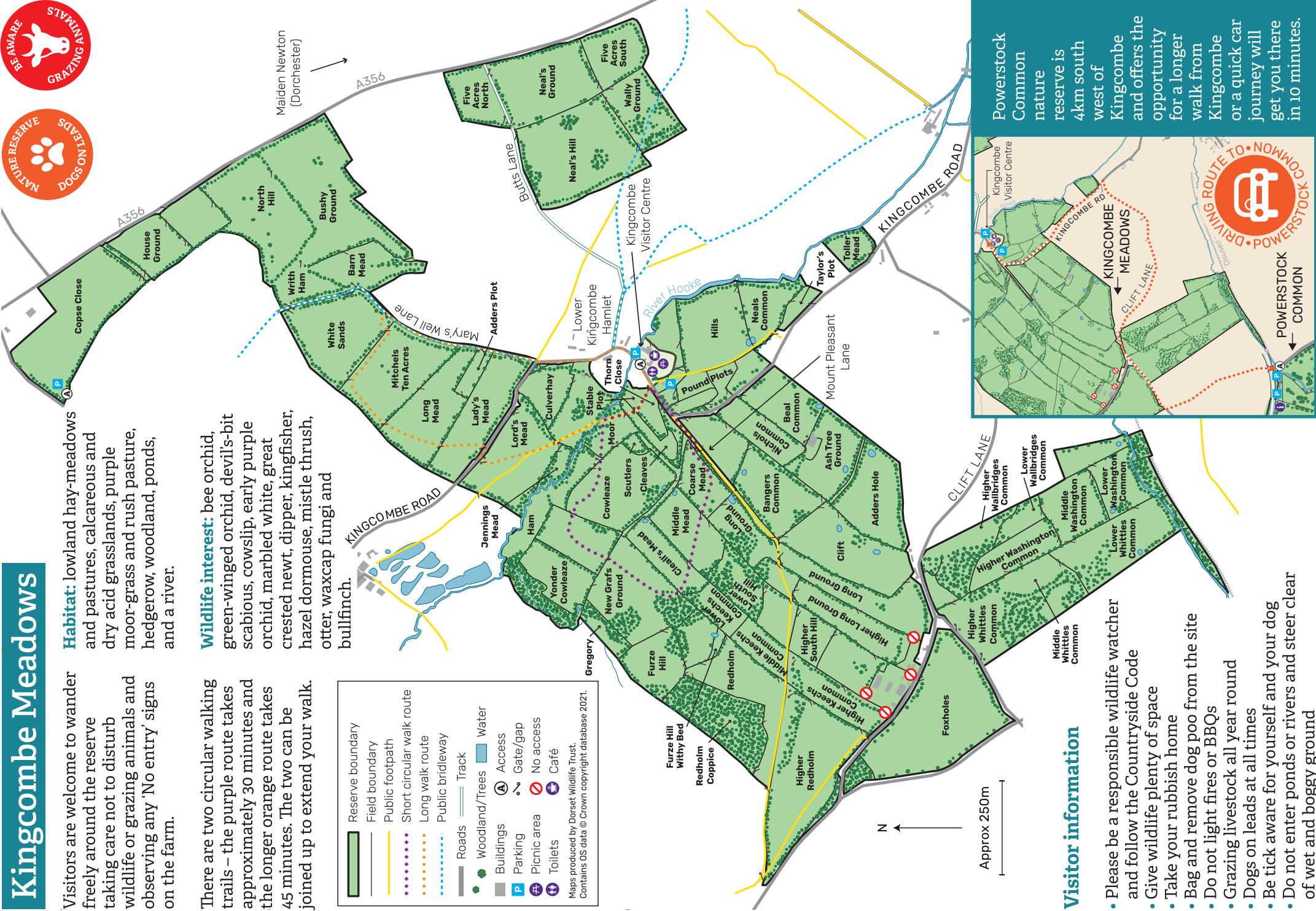
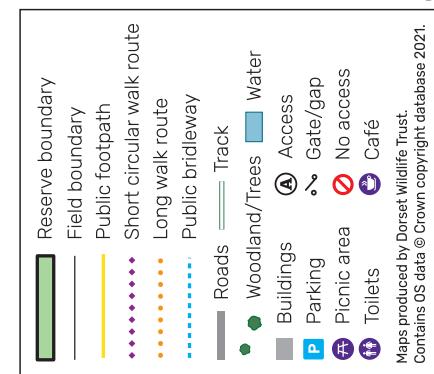
# Kingcombe Meadows

Visitors are welcome to wander freely around the reserve taking care not to disturb wildlife or grazing animals and observing any 'No entry' signs on the farm.

There are two circular walking trails – the purple route takes approximately 30 minutes and the longer orange route takes 45 minutes. The two can be joined up to extend your walk.

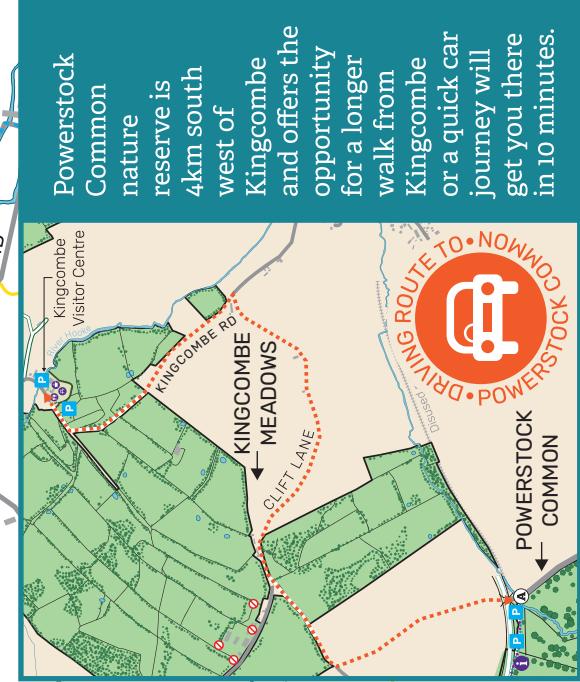
**Habitat:** lowland hay-meadows and pastures, calcareous and dry acid grasslands, purple moor-grass and rush pasture, hedgerow, woodland, ponds, and a river.

**Wildlife interest:** bee orchid, green-winged orchid, devil's-bit scabious, cowslip, early purple orchid, marbled white, great crested newt, dipper, kingfisher, hazel dormouse, mistle thrush, otter, waxcap fungi and bullfinch.



## Visitor information

- Please be a responsible wildlife watcher and follow the Countryside Code
- Give wildlife plenty of space
- Take your rubbish home
- Bag and remove dog poo from the site
- Do not light fires or BBQs
- Grazing livestock all year round
- Dogs on leads at all times
- Be tick aware for yourself and your dog
- Do not enter ponds or rivers and steer clear of wet and boggy ground



Powerstock Common nature reserve is 4km south west of Kingcombe and offers the opportunity for a longer walk from Kingcombe or a quick car journey will get you there in 10 minutes.