

Explore the reserve

Powerstock Common, Toller Porcorum,
Dorchester, Dorset DT2 0EJ

Kingcombe National Nature Reserve



Dorset
Wildlife Trust

Powerstock Common

A visit to Powerstock Common is rewarding at any time of year with its variety of habitat of ancient oak and ash broadleaved woodland, open rough grassland and ponds which create a wonderful environment for flowers and insects. Enjoy the bluebells, wild daffodils and birdsong in spring, orchids, butterflies and dragonflies in summer and in autumn, you will see fruits and 283 species of fungi. Even a winter visit might give you the opportunity to see fallow deer and flocks of wintering thrushes.

The landscape of Powerstock Common has changed over the centuries since villagers grazed livestock on what was then rough grassland. Scattered trees had the space to expand, resulting in the wonderful old oak trees with twisted crowns that you can still see on the reserve. Enclosure, the Bridport branch railway, charcoal burners and conifer plantations have all played their part in its history. Dorset Wildlife Trust started a massive programme of conifer removal in the 1980s to allow native wildlife to flourish.



Hazel dormouse © Ian Pratt



Bee orchid © S Davis



Fallow deer © Steve Waterhouse

Location

Powerstock Common is located 5 kilometres west of Maiden Newton. Railway station is at Maiden Newton.

Parking and access

There is a small car park at the entrance of the reserve. A level part-gravelled track with bridle and field gates runs through the centre of the reserve and is suitable for off-road wheelchair access. The long circular trail, which is marked on the map, is surfaced and can be accessed all year round by a 'tramper'.

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Dorset Wildlife Trust
Bringing back nature in Dorset

Powerstock Common

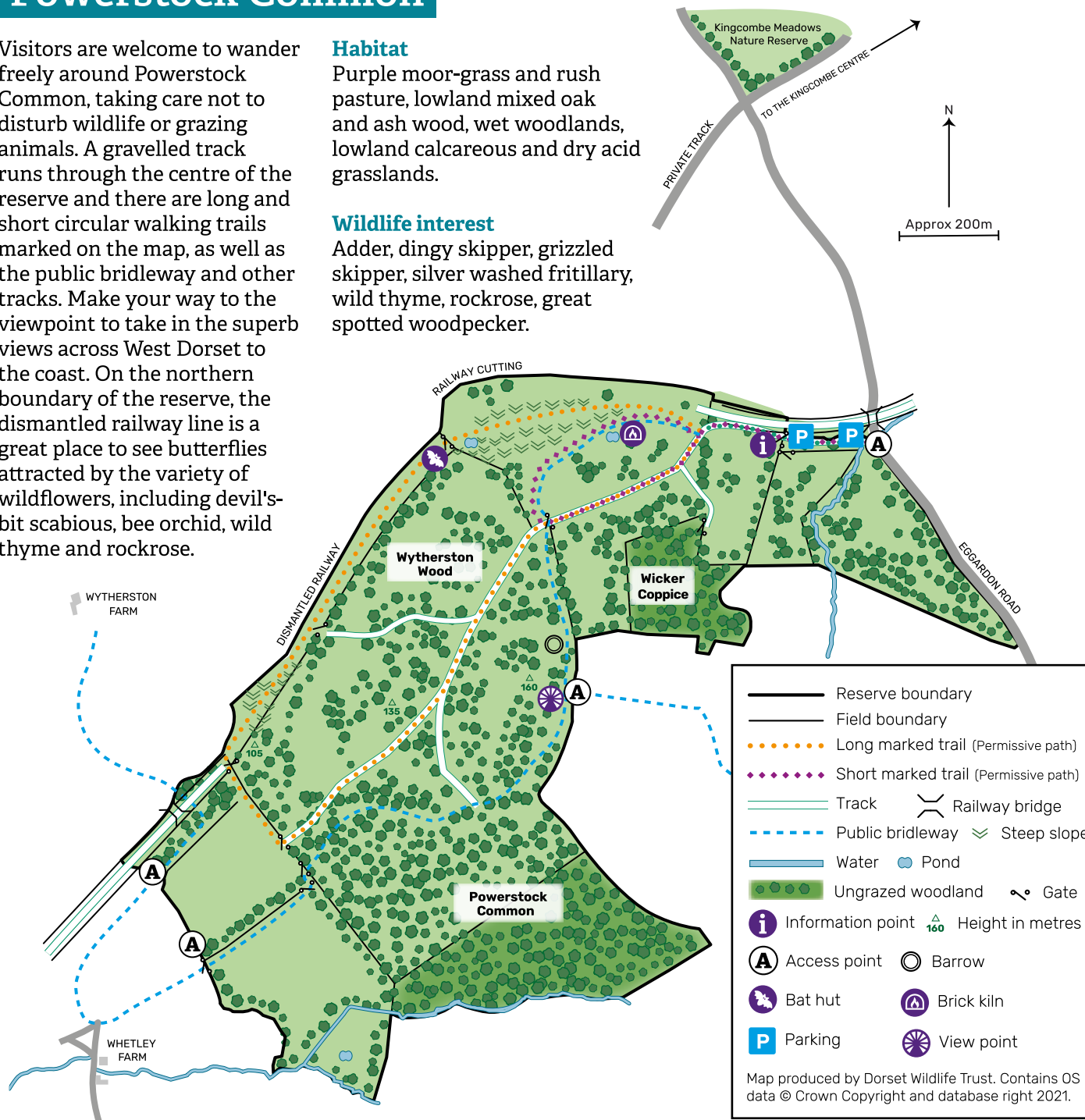
Visitors are welcome to wander freely around Powerstock Common, taking care not to disturb wildlife or grazing animals. A gravelled track runs through the centre of the reserve and there are long and short circular walking trails marked on the map, as well as the public bridleway and other tracks. Make your way to the viewpoint to take in the superb views across West Dorset to the coast. On the northern boundary of the reserve, the dismantled railway line is a great place to see butterflies attracted by the variety of wildflowers, including devil's-bit scabious, bee orchid, wild thyme and rockrose.

Habitat

Purple moor-grass and rush pasture, lowland mixed oak and ash wood, wet woodlands, lowland calcareous and dry acid grasslands.

Wildlife interest

Adder, dingy skipper, grizzled skipper, silver washed fritillary, wild thyme, rockrose, great spotted woodpecker.



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
- Cattle and pony grazing 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



Kingcombe National Nature Reserve

Powerstock Common and nearby Kingcombe Meadows nature reserve were declared a National Nature Reserve by Natural England in 2021. Powerstock Common supports an impressive list of rare and protected species amongst its unimproved wet and dry grassland, scrub, woodland and network of ponds.

