

Welcome

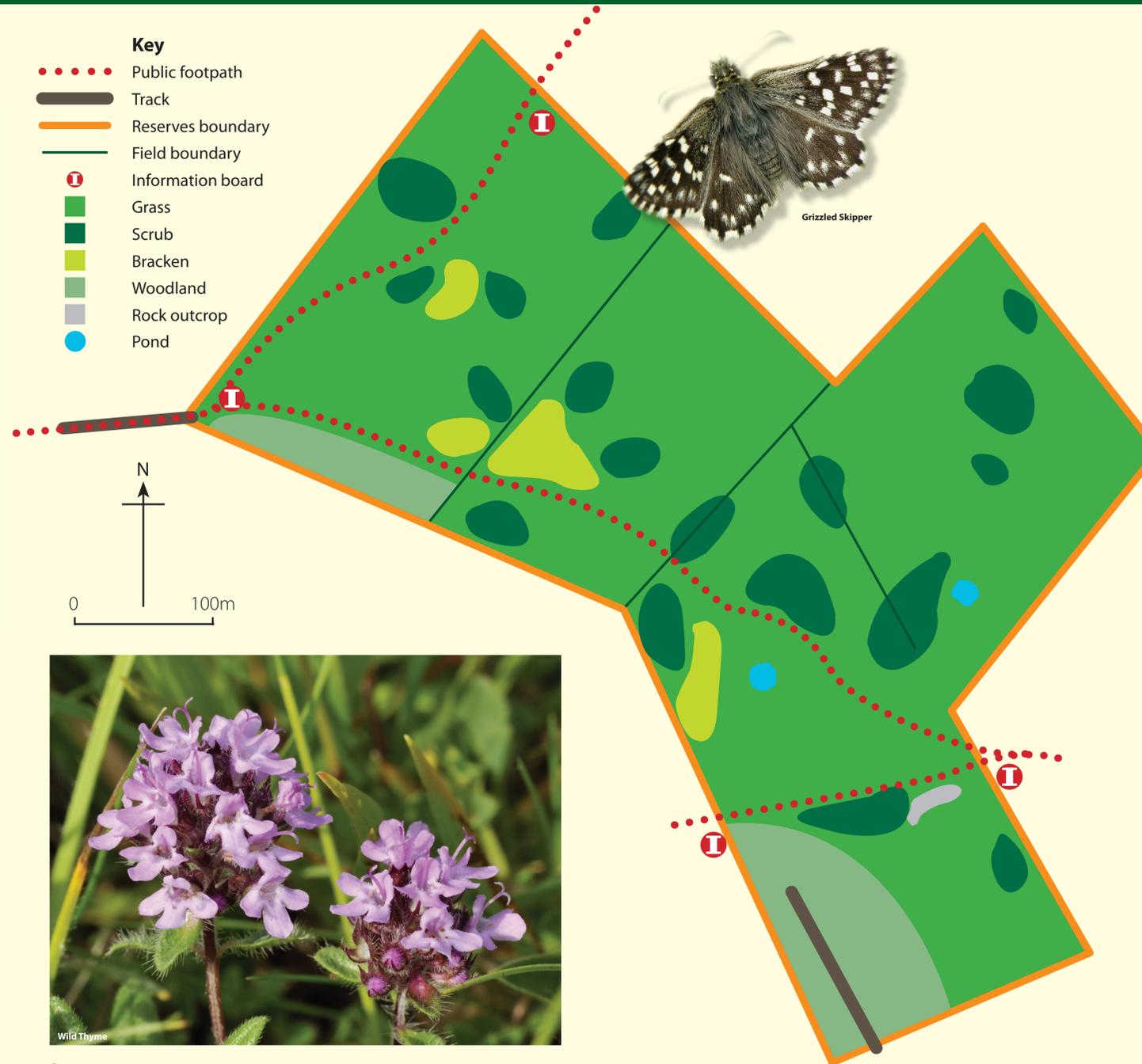
Why this is a special place:

- In spring and summer there is a fantastic display of wildflowers, with the varying soils supporting different species.
- Pignut, Common Knapweed and Harebell grow on the neutral to acidic grassland areas. See if you can also spot Lousewort, an unusual, hemi-parasitic plant that obtains its nutrients by tapping into the roots of other plants.
- Where rock outcrops break the surface you'll find limestone grassland, with Small Scabious and Common Milkwort growing amongst fragrant carpets of Wild Thyme.
- Peregrine Falcon can occasionally be seen flying overhead – they nest in nearby Cheddar Gorge. Ravens, the largest member of the crow family, are common visitors to the reserve. Their distinctive croaking call will alert you to their presence.
- The dry stone walls and rock outcrops of the reserve are excellent places to see basking reptiles during spring and summer as they use the heat of the sun to warm their bodies.
- Butterflies such as the Grizzled Skipper and Dingy Skipper can be seen during spring, whilst the Dark Green Fritillary can be seen flying powerfully over the grassland in high summer.

Bubwith Acres Nature Reserve comprises 19 hectares (47 acres) of unimproved grassland, scrub and woodland. The westernmost field is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Somerset Wildlife Trust bought these 5 hectares (12 acres) from the Bubwith Almhouses Trust in 1978. The 14 hectare (35 acre) eastern extension was bought in 2000.



- Key**
- Public footpath
 - Track
 - Reserves boundary
 - Field boundary
 - I Information board
 - Grass
 - Scrub
 - Bracken
 - Woodland
 - Rock outcrop
 - Pond



Reserve management

The reserve is managed primarily by grazing with sheep and cattle during the spring and summer, which keeps the vegetation low to allow flowering plants to flourish. Large areas of scrub are being cleared to restore the grassland, although some smaller patches will be retained to provide cover for insects and birds. Bracken is also being controlled to prevent it from dominating the grassland.

Save Our Magnificent Meadows

This interpretation panel has been produced as part of Save Our Magnificent Meadows - a UK-wide partnership project to transform the fortunes of our vanishing wildflower meadows, grasslands and wildlife, primarily funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. magnificentmeadows.org.uk



Access and safety

- Visitors on foot are welcome to walk in the reserve throughout the year.
- Please do not ride or cycle.
- The paths and tracks have uneven surfaces in places and can be slippery in areas of exposed rock.
- Animals may be grazing at any time of year, therefore please keep dogs under close control and clean up after them.
- Camping and fires are not permitted.
- Be aware that machinery may occasionally be operating on site. Please follow any safety instructions given on temporary signs.

Are you able to help support our work?

Somerset Wildlife Trust works all year round to protect the wildlife you love. Alongside managing over 1,700 hectares of land across the county, we also provide wildlife-friendly land management advice, campaign and educate to make sure Somerset remains one of the most wildlife-rich places in the UK. With limited resources and funding we are only able to do this thanks to the help we receive from our members and supporters - and people like you who visit these special places and understand their value.

For information about how you can get involved and support our work, including becoming a member or volunteering on this site and others, please go to www.somersetwildlife.org or call 01823 652 400.