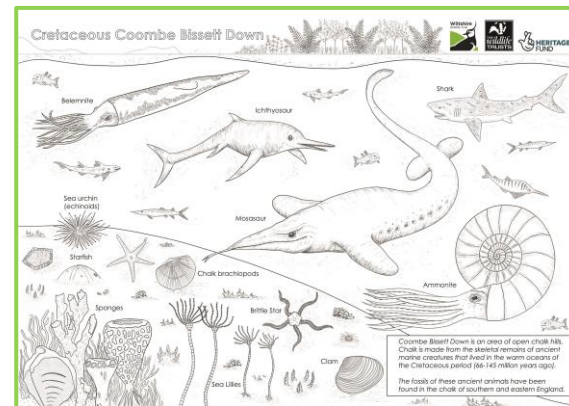
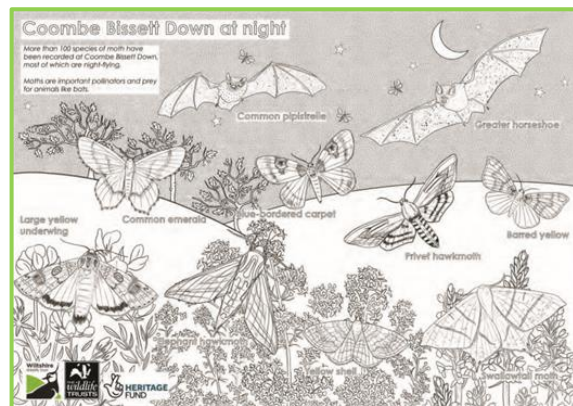
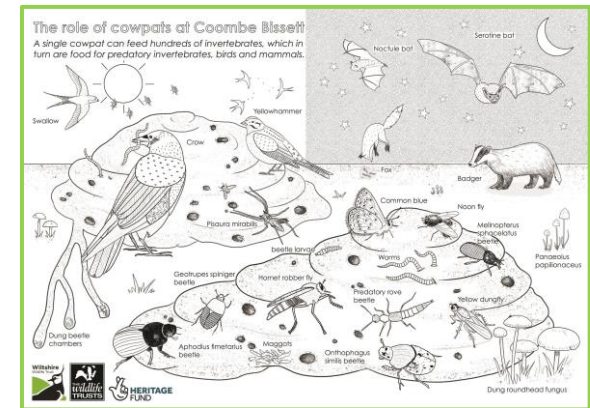
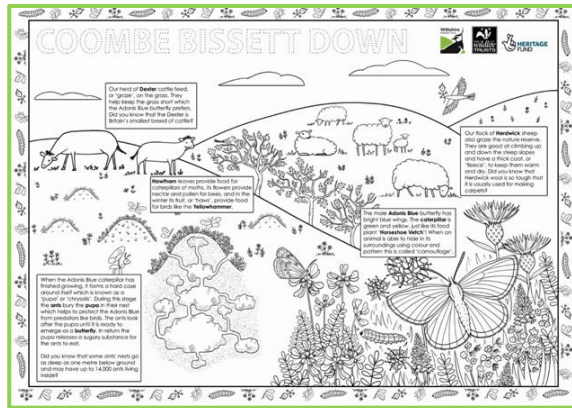


# Coombe Bissett Down Colouring Book



This book includes five colouring sheets which introduce the key species and features of Coombe Bissett Down nature reserve, including specialist chalk grassland species, the role of cow pats in supporting biodiversity, nocturnal animals, and chalk fossils.



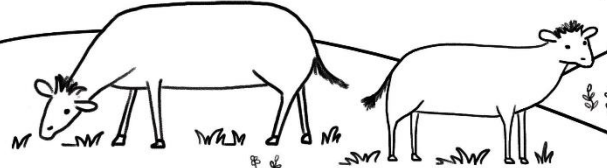
This colouring book belongs to.....



# COOMBE BISSETT DOWN



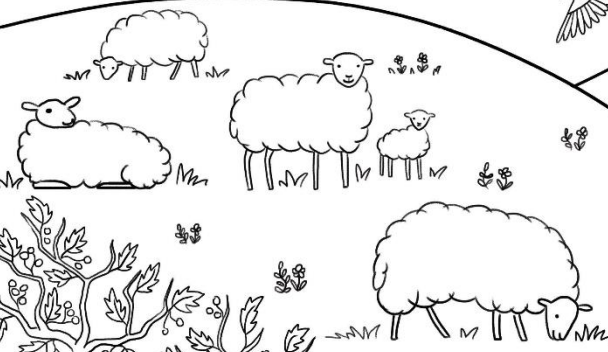
Our herd of **Dexter** cattle feed, or 'graze', on the grass. They help keep the grass short which the Adonis Blue butterfly prefers. Did you know that the Dexter is Britain's smallest breed of cattle?



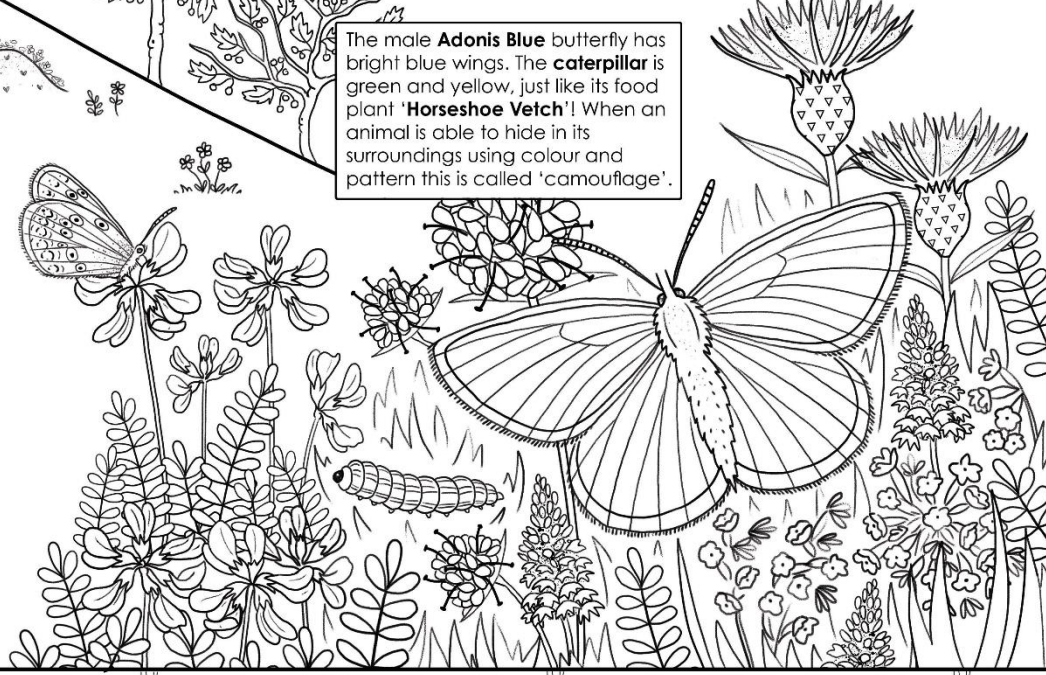
**Hawthorn** leaves provide food for caterpillars of moths, its flowers provide nectar and pollen for bees, and in the winter its fruit, or 'haws', provide food for birds like the **Yellowhammer**.



Our flock of **Herdwick** sheep also graze the nature reserve. They are good at climbing up and down the steep slopes and have a thick coat, or 'fleece', to keep them warm and dry. Did you know that Herdwick wool is so tough that it is usually used for making carpets?

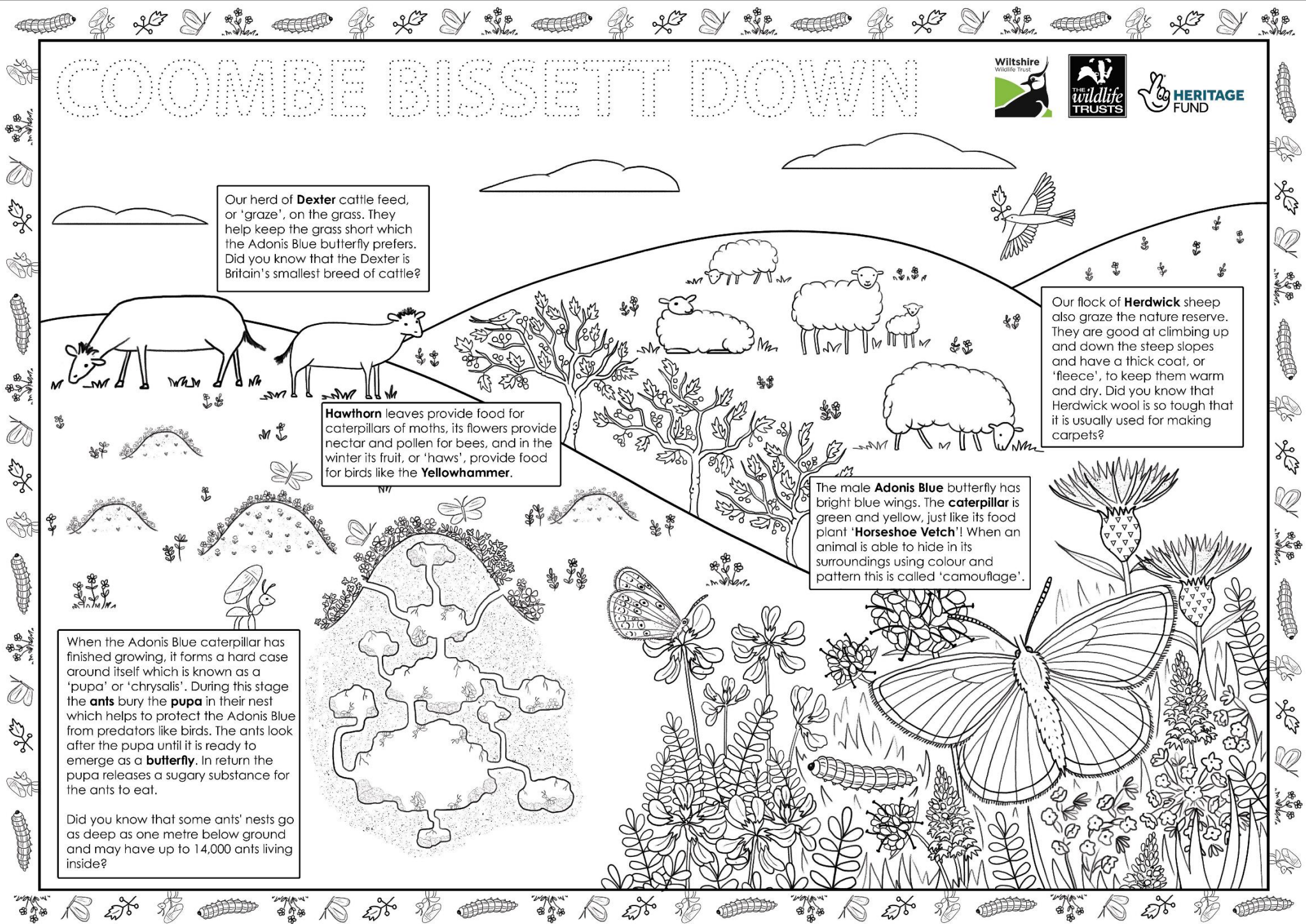
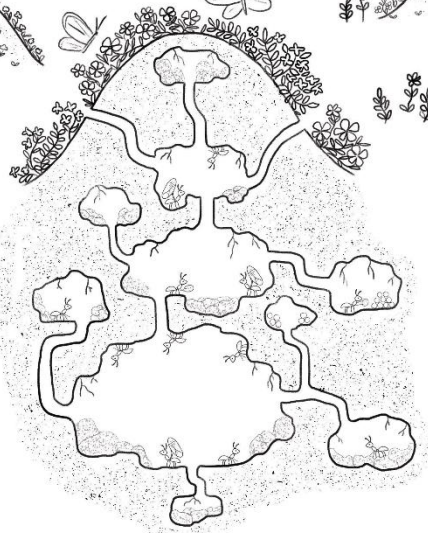


The male **Adonis Blue** butterfly has bright blue wings. The **caterpillar** is green and yellow, just like its food plant '**Horseshoe Vetch**'! When an animal is able to hide in its surroundings using colour and pattern this is called 'camouflage'.



When the Adonis Blue caterpillar has finished growing, it forms a hard case around itself which is known as a 'pupa' or 'chrysalis'. During this stage the **ants** bury the **pupa** in their nest which helps to protect the Adonis Blue from predators like birds. The ants look after the pupa until it is ready to emerge as a **butterfly**. In return the pupa releases a sugary substance for the ants to eat.

Did you know that some ants' nests go as deep as one metre below ground and may have up to 14,000 ants living inside?





# Chalk Grassland Species



- 1 Dark Blue
- 4 Light Yellow
- 7 Dark Brown
- 10 White
- 2 Light Blue
- 5 Dark Green
- 8 Light Brown
- 3 Dark Yellow
- 6 Light Green
- 9 Light Grey

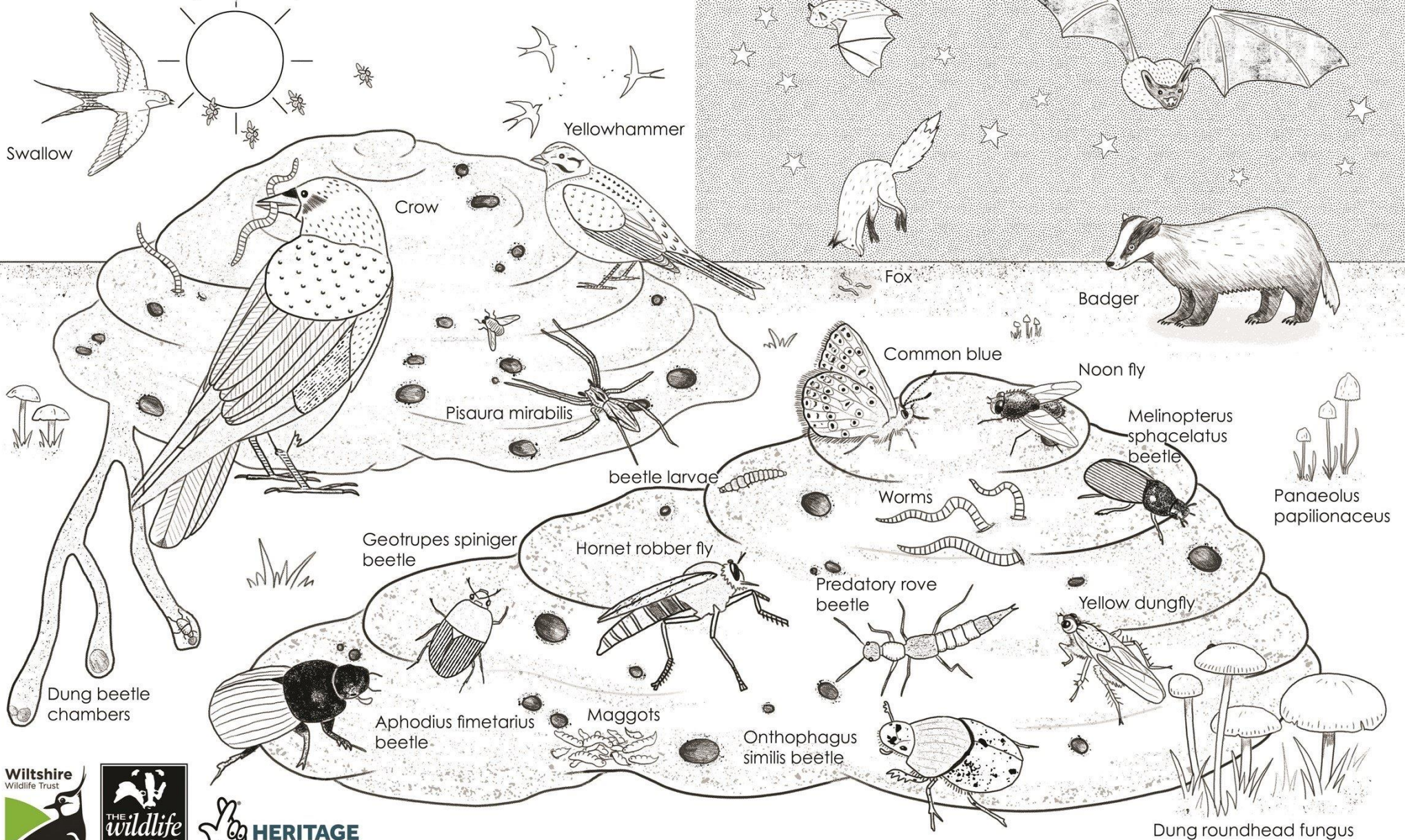


Chalk grassland can contain over 40 species of wildflowers in just one square metre. These plants feed rare and beautiful butterflies like the Adonis Blue.



# The role of cowpats at Coombe Bissett

A single cowpat can feed hundreds of invertebrates, which in turn are food for predatory invertebrates, birds and mammals.





# Coombe Bissett Down at night

More than 100 species of moth have been recorded at Coombe Bissett Down, most of which are night-flying.

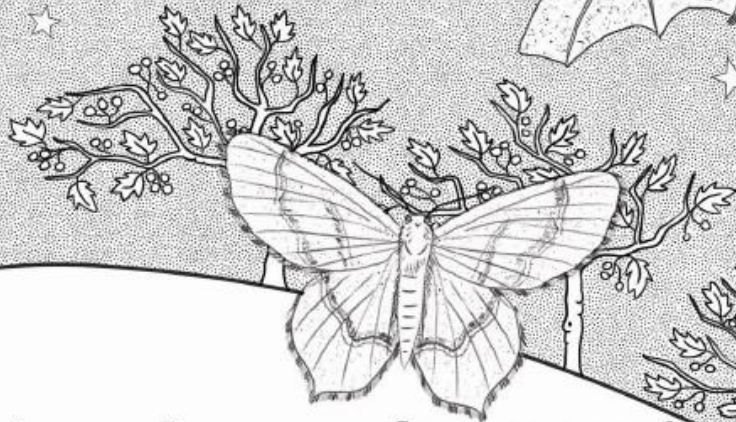
Moths are important pollinators and prey for animals like bats.



Common pipistrelle



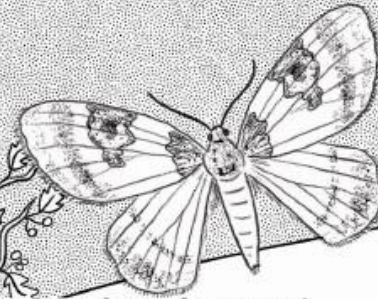
Greater horseshoe



Large yellow underwing



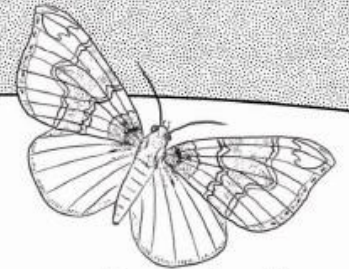
Common emerald



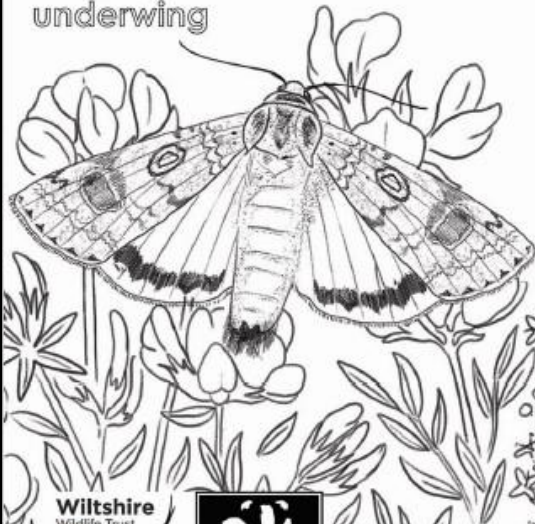
Blue-bordered carpet



Privet hawkmoth



Barred yellow



Elephant hawkmoth



Yellow shell



Swallowtail moth

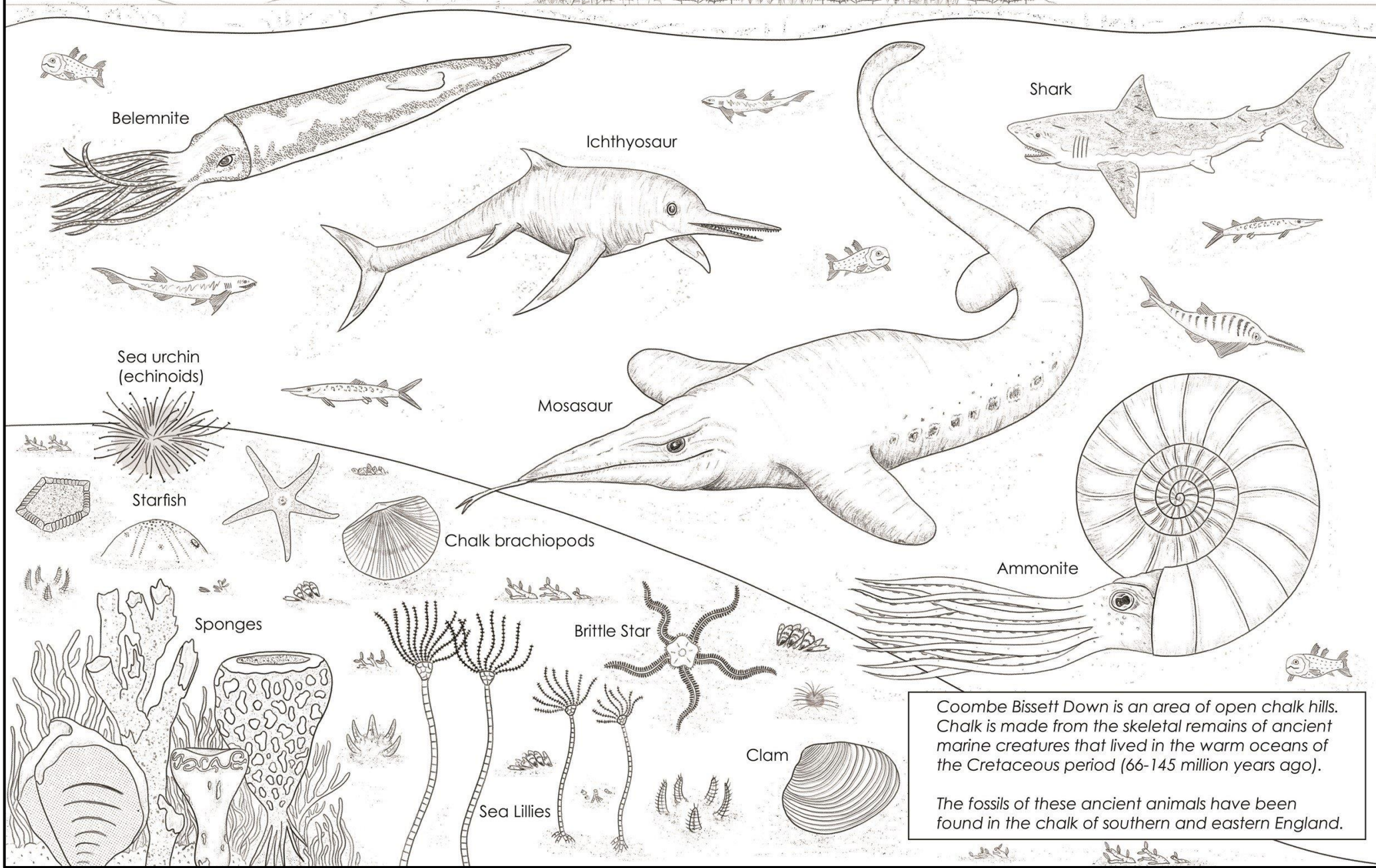
Wiltshire Wildlife Trust



HERITAGE FUND



# Cretaceous Coombe Bissett Down



Belemnite

Ichthyosaur

Shark

Sea urchin (echinoids)

Mosasaur

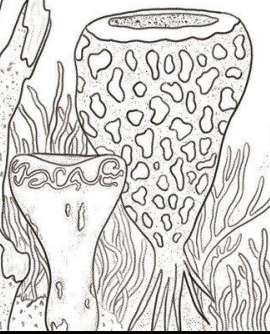
Starfish

Chalk brachiopods

Ammonite

Sponges

Brittle Star



Sea Lillies

Clam

Coombe Bissett Down is an area of open chalk hills. Chalk is made from the skeletal remains of ancient marine creatures that lived in the warm oceans of the Cretaceous period (66-145 million years ago).  
The fossils of these ancient animals have been found in the chalk of southern and eastern England.