

## Location

**Near Salisbury**  
**Postcode SP5 1AG**  
**Grid ref SU234288**

**Access** - Often wet even in summer – may need wellies. May not be suitable for pushchairs and wheelchairs when very wet.

## Directions

**If driving** - travelling from Salisbury on the A343 /A30 to Andover, take first turn right signposted to Pitton and Farley. Drive through village of Pitton, passing Silver Plough pub on your left, following signs for Farley. In Farley take left turn into Church Road and then the next left turn into Ben Lane. Continue on Ben Lane until you reach junction with Long Drove (signposted East Grimstead and Winterslow). Main entrance to Blackmoor Copse is on left just before this junction at grid reference SU234288. There is limited parking on the wide road verge.

**If using bus** - number 36 bus stops in East Grimstead. From here it is a 15 minute walk along Long Drove. Visit [www.salisburyreds.co.uk](http://www.salisburyreds.co.uk)

**If cycling** - leave National Cycle Route 24 in East Grimstead and follow Long Drove to reserve entrance. Visit [www.sustrans.org.uk](http://www.sustrans.org.uk)

**Nearby reserves** - Cockey Down, The Devenish

## About Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

Our vision is to create a county rich in wildlife and help people live sustainable lifestyles that protect the environment for the benefit of everyone.

We have about 18,000 members, look after almost 40 nature reserves, are supported by hundreds of volunteers, and work with local communities, schools, businesses and public bodies to achieve our aims. To do all this we rely on the support of our members.

If you would like to join us, or to find out about how you can help the environment, please visit [www.wiltshirewildlife.org](http://www.wiltshirewildlife.org)

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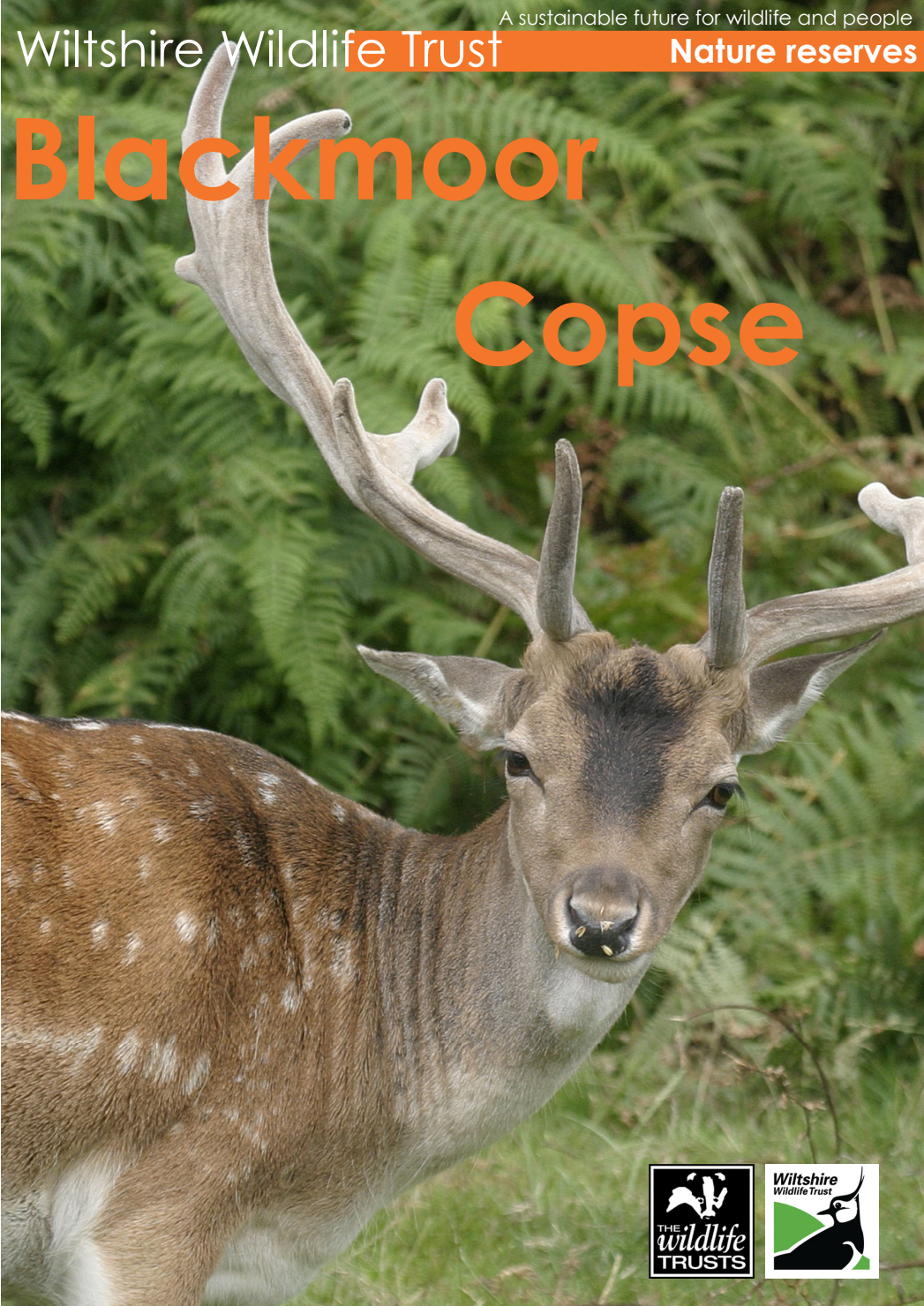
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Registered charity no. 266202



Front cover: Fallow Deer, Darin Smith





# Blackmoor Copse – the Vaughan-Pickard reserve

**Size: 37 hectares**

Blackmoor Copse was our first nature reserve and we have been looking after it since 1962.

It is a **Site of Special Scientific Interest** (SSSI) and one of the most important woods in Wiltshire for wildlife, particularly butterflies. The gently sloping site is criss-crossed by woodland paths and has a circular route for easy walking.

In 1998 we bought the neighbouring five hectares of White's Common. Although not part of the SSSI, it is rich in flowers.

Don't be alarmed if you see trees being cut in the wood. The regular cutting at ground level (or coppicing) of hazel opens up areas so that sunlight can reach the woodland floor.

This stimulates woodland flowers to grow, which provides food for caterpillars and adult butterflies. Coppicing has been practised for centuries here and does not kill the trees as they re-grow from the stump.

## Wildlife

In spring and summer woodland glades and paths are sprinkled with wildflowers such as violets, primroses, bluebells and **common spotted orchids**.

The flowers attract **butterflies** - 25 different species. Keep an eye out for the pearl-

bordered fritillary, the spectacular **purple emperor**, the silver-washed fritillary and the Duke of Burgundy.

The pearl-bordered fritillary caterpillar will only feed on the common dog violet growing near leaf litter, dead bracken or bare ground. These areas absorb the sun's warmth so the caterpillars can bask before feeding. Coppicing is the best way to create this type of habitat for the butterfly.

**Blackmoor Copse has one of the longest running dormice monitoring programmes in the country.** They scamper through the tree canopy in their hunt for fruit and nuts. Look for nibbled hazel nuts on the woodland floor and the occasional nest box among the branches. Other residents include wood mice and yellow-necked mice.

Shy muntjac, roe and **fallow deer** hide among giant oak and ash trees. Move quietly and you may see them.

In spring King Charles pond is a breeding place for common **toads** and newts. In summer dragonflies and damselflies dart above its surface.

Throughout the year the copse is home to well-camouflaged **woodcocks**; if you hear any drumming it will be the great spotted woodpecker.

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Torpid Dormouse, Steve Day WWT. Pearl-bordered fritillary, Steve Day WWT. Common spotted-orchid, Steve Day WWT. Purple emperor, Pete Eeles. Hoar frost at Blackmore Copse, Steve Day WWT

