



Location

Laverstock SP4 6DR
Grid Ref – SU173320

Access - The reserve is not suitable for pushchairs or wheelchairs. Dogs on leads are welcome.

Directions

If driving – in Laverstock, accessible from the A338/A343 roundabout, follow signs for the Duck Inn and park. From the Duck Inn follow the bridleway for about one mile, passing the Natural England reserve, onto the chalk slope. Follow footpath to reserve entrance (kissing gates), located in middle of a fence line, half way down the slope.

This may be the most scenic route, but is not most direct. It is possible to park near the Church Lane/Bishops Mead roundabout and take the bridleway on the opposite side of the road that leads past Frank W Murphy Limited straight up the hill to the reserve.

If using bus

- Visit www.salisburyreds.co.uk for bus routes and times.

If cycling - Follow National Cycle Route The Golden Way to Laverstock. From here, follow the footpath beside Duck Inn (on foot). Visit www.sustrans.org.uk for more information and for printable maps.

Nearby reserves – Blackmoor Copse, 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 18,500 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

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust Ltd. Elm Tree Court,
Long Street, Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 1NJ.
Telephone (01380) 725670
info@wiltshirewildlife.org

 Join us on [Facebook.com/WiltsWild](https://www.facebook.com/WiltsWild)

 Follow [@WiltsWildlife](https://twitter.com/WiltsWildlife)

Registered charity no. 266202.

Front cover: Dark green fritillary on knapweed, Nick Upton



Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

A sustainable future for wildlife and people

Nature reserves

Cockey Down



Cockey Down

6.81 hectares

This chalk downland offers superb views of Salisbury Cathedral spire and the surrounding countryside.

Cockey Down is a designated **Site of Special Scientific Interest**. It has a rich variety of chalk grassland flowers because it has not been 'improved' by chemical fertilisers and because a long history of grazing has kept the coarser grasses in check.

There is evidence of Early Bronze Age and Iron Age occupation nearby and the substantial lynchets (terraces) indicate that most of the down was ploughed in the late prehistoric and Roman period.

Wildlife

It is best visited in spring and summer to see orchids, including fragrant and pyramidal, and other flowers such as the nationally scarce field fleawort.

The nationally scarce **bastard toadflax** grows on the steeper slopes, its white star-shaped flowers belying its parasitic nature. Its roots attach themselves to those of nearby plants to draw nutrients and water. A metallic-blue shield bug lives on its sap, found here in late summer.

You can see butterflies such as **chalkhill blue**, **marbled white** and dark green fritillary, but keep an eye out for the large, brown-and-yellow-banded hornet robber-fly. This fly preys on other insects, particularly grasshoppers, but the larvae live underground and hunt for beetle grubs.

Yellowhammers, linnets and willow warblers inhabit the scrub, while meadow pipits and skylarks nest in the long grass. Listen for their song. Raptors such as buzzards, kestrels and **sparrowhawks** hunt over the downs.



Chalkhill blue, Stephen Davies WWT. Bastard toadflax, Scenes From Here
Marbled white, Darin Smith. Yellowhammer, Graham Coules.
Sparrowhawk, Darin Smith

