

Location

Hungerford
Postcode SN8 3RG
Grid Ref – SU333617

Access –This reserve is not suitable for pushchairs and wheelchairs. Please stay on the path and do not climb the northwest-facing slope as this will damage wildflowers, particularly the orchids. Dogs on leads are welcome.

Directions

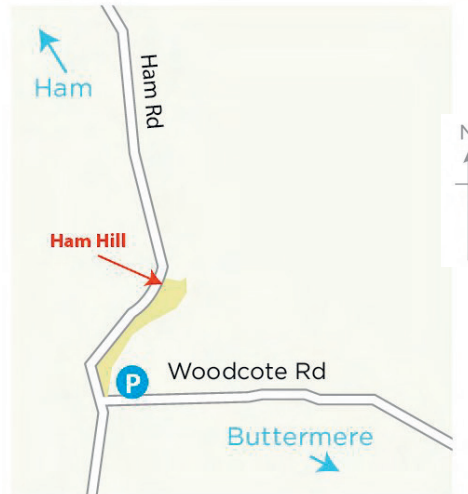
If driving –Reserve is located near village of Ham, south east of the A338 Hungerford to Burbage road. From Burbage turn right off A338 after about five miles and follow signposts to Shalbourne and then Ham. From Hungerford turn left off the A338 after about two miles and follow signposts to Ham. In the middle of Ham take road south, signposted to Buttermere and Andover.

Reserve is on left side of road about 0.5 miles outside the village. No designated parking area but room for two cars on edge of road beside kissing gate at northern end of reserve. There is also space to park at southern end of reserve by woodland; continue along road up the hill and take next left turn, park here on verge of the road to Buttermere.

If using bus - The 20/22 Marlborough-Great Bedwyn-Hungerford bus service stops at Crown and Anchor pub in village of Ham. From pub there is a 20 minute walk (0.9 miles) to the reserve entrance. Visit www.wiltshire.gov.uk/parkingtransportandstreets

If cycling – No National Cycle Routes in the vicinity. Visit www.sustrans.org.uk

Nearby reserves – Jones's Mill



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

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Cover photo: Duke of Burgundy butterfly, Stephen Davis WWT

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

A sustainable future for wildlife and people

Nature reserves

Ham Hill



Ham Hill

1.51 hectares

Ham Hill is a tiny area of steeply sloping chalk downland strewn with wildflowers and offering great views.

A path runs through it and a flight of steps leads to the top of the embankment and through the ash woodland, exiting at the southern end.

The reserve is part of a **holloway** (sunken track) dating back to Saxon or medieval times on the route from Hungerford to Andover. It was formed by the trudging of many feet over hundreds of years either climbing or descending from the chalk downland into the lower lying Vale of Pewsey .

The site is grazed with sheep by a local grazer. This controls the scrub that would otherwise crowd out the wildflowers. Volunteers help clear the scrub and coppice some of the trees.

Wildlife

The banks are a designated **Site of Special Scientific Interest** for their rich variety of plants and wildlife.

In spring, cowslips, **early purple orchids** and violets provide food for the caterpillar of the **Duke of Burgundy** butterfly. See other butterflies such as marbled white, orange tip, green hairstreak and chalkhill blue on the wing through the summer .

In July look for the tiny, yellow-green, powerfully scented **musk orchid**, a nationally scarce species that is found in very few sites in Wiltshire. You may also find a few burnt orchids.

Twayblades, common spotted, fragrant and pyramidal orchids are scattered throughout the reserve.

In high summer, look out for white fairy flax and pink **squinancywort** as well as lady's bedstraw, wild thyme, wild carrot and marjoram.

Later in the season, the slopes are tinged purple and blue by harebells, devils'-bit scabious, clustered bellflower and autumn gentian.

Chalk milkwort, horseshoe vetch and common rockrose add more hues to the scene.

Birds such as **chaffinch** and yellowhammer nest in the bushes. Listen for the deep croak of roosting ravens.

Look out for the rare **Roman snail**, Britain's largest. Its spherical shell ranges from white to grey, has pale brown bands and grows up to 5cm across.



Early purple orchids, Steve Day WWT. Ham Hill - view into valley, Steve Day WWT
Chaffinch, Graham Coules. Musk orchid, Dave Pemcoastphotos
Squinancywort, Stephen Davis WWT. Roman snail, David Short

