

Location

Near Salisbury
Grid ref. SU258184

Directions

Access - Not suitable for pushchairs and wheelchairs. Dogs on leads are welcome.

Directions

If driving - From Salisbury take A36 towards Southampton. After 10 miles turn to Landford on the B3079. Go through Landford village, heading towards Bramshaw. After about 1.25 miles the entrance to reserve is at second lay-by on left, next to kissing gates. Here you can park.

If using bus - The X7 Salisbury-Southampton service stops in the village of Landford. Visit www.salisburyreds.co.uk

If cycling - There are no specified cycle routes in the area. Visit www.sustrans.org.uk

Other reserves nearby - Blackmoor Copse, Coombe Bissett Down

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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Registered charity no.
266202.

Front cover: Raft spider, JH Fin

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

A sustainable future for wildlife and people

Nature reserves

Landford Bog



Landford Bog

6.65 hectares

Set within the New Forest National Park Landford Bog is a fine example of internationally rare lowland bog and wet heath.

It is the only remnant of Landford Common, used since the Middle Ages by villagers, who cut peat for fuel and grazed their animals.

Most of the county's original bog has been lost to housing and farmland or stripped to provide compost for horticulture so what remains is very special indeed. This reserve is a designated **Site of Special Scientific Interest** and a refuge for rare plants and animals that have evolved to survive in wet, acidic conditions.

The bog itself is a floating carpet of feathery moss with expanses of **heather** and purple moor-grass, punctuated by dark pools of water.

Along the eastern side of the reserve is wet woodland of broadleaved willow.

Wildlife

If plants cannot absorb enough nutrients from poor soil, they find other ways to get them - some turn carnivorous and develop ingenious methods to trap their prey.

At Landford Bog the small **sundew** uses its sticky red tentacles to trap insects. Its spoon-shaped leaves curl up around its

prey, and once it is secured the plant slowly digests it.

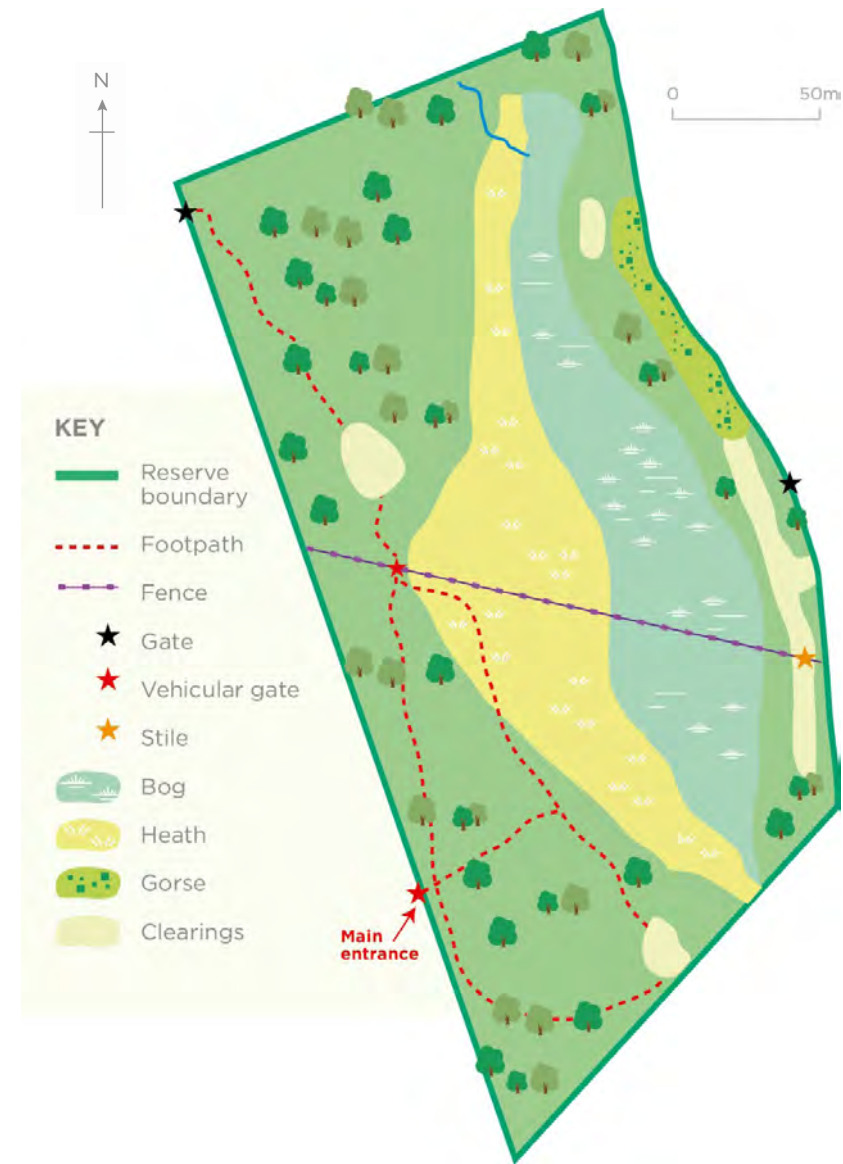
Also carnivorous, the pale **butterwort** has tiny pink flowers and uses a rosette of leaves at the base of its stem to trap insects.

In summer see the yellow bog **asphodel** and the frilly **bogbean**.

One of the UK's largest spiders, the **raft spider**, lives here. You may spot this magnificent yellow-striped animal perched on a leaf at the edge of a dark puddle. It rests its front legs on the water and uses sensory hairs to detect ripples made by insects. Once alerted, it skates across the surface and overcomes prey such as large flies, dragonflies and damselflies. Tread quietly or it will disappear under water.

On a hot day you can see the metallic green **tiger beetle**, dragonflies and damselflies in flight. Listen for grasshoppers and crickets around your feet.

We are grazing the reserve with cattle to keep scrub down and stop trees encroaching. Volunteers help with scrub clearance, coppicing, fencing and other tasks.



Butterwort, Robinswamp. Sedge tussocks, Steve Day WWT. Bogbean, Rob Large WWT. Sundew, Ole Husby
Tiger beetle, Michael Hodge. Bog asphodel, Steve Day WWT. Heather, Steve Day WWT

