



## Location

**Calne**

**Postcode SN11 8PZ**

**Grid ref SU 025 672**

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

**If driving** - From Devizes head north along A361 towards Swindon. Take first turning left towards Calne on brow of hill. After about two miles take first right after golf course, signposted Smallgrain Picnic Area. Walk up grass slope towards the byway, turn right and walk up gently rising slope for 0.5 miles until reserve entrance comes into view. The byway leading to the reserve is deeply rutted and not suitable for wheelchair users.

**If using bus** - No bus service is available.

**If cycling** - Warning for cyclists: the road approaching the picnic site is steep, narrow and fast. The nearest designated National Cycle Route is Regional Route 20, which runs through Heddington, Stockley and towards Calne. Visit [www.sustrans.org.uk](http://www.sustrans.org.uk)

**Nearby reserves** - Hat Gate, Jones's Mill, Peppercombe Wood.

## 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](http://www.wiltshirewildlife.org)

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

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

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Registered charity no. 266202



Cover photo: Round-headed rampion, Rob Large WWT

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

A sustainable future for wildlife and people

Nature reserves

# Morgan's Hill



## Morgan's Hill

10.07 hectares

Morgan's Hill between Devizes and Calne offers incredible views of Cherhill Down and the plains of north Wiltshire. The reserve is a **Site of Special Scientific Interest** for its orchids, butterflies and for the general quality of chalk grassland and wildflowers.

A **Roman road** runs along its northern edge and the fifth century Wansdyke defines its southern border - built to defend the northern territory of Wessex. This large bank with a deep ditch is home to early purple orchids and **round-headed rampion**. It is believed the hill was named after a local man, John Morgan, who in 1720 was hung at this prominent site for murdering his uncle.

### Wildlife

Unusually all three of the UK's native conifer trees grow here - Scot's pine, juniper and yew - possibly planted as way-markers to signpost the drovers' route.

Keep your eyes peeled for cowslips, primroses and violets in spring, and wild thyme, horseshoe vetch, common rock rose and **marsh helleborine** in summer.

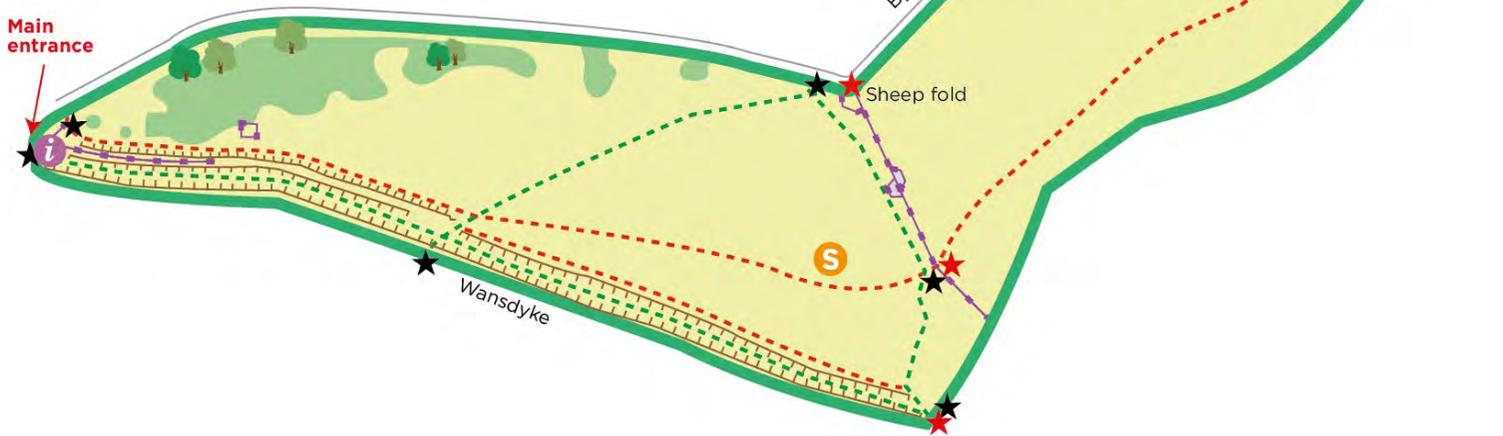
Where there are flowers, butterflies follow. Along the Wansdyke you can find the Adonis, chalkhill, common and small blues. Further down the slopes look for the **marsh fritillary** - one of the UK's most endangered species of butterfly, which feeds on devil's-bit scabious.

The reserve is a magnet for moths such as the **Mother Shipton**, named after a Yorkshire witch because its wing pattern is thought to resemble an unpleasant face.

Birds found at the reserve include **kestrel**, buzzard, yellowhammer and skylark.

We are improving the grassland by removing scrub and grazing with our Dexter cattle and Herdwick sheep. We have cleared an area of invasive tor-grass, scraping back to the bare chalk, so that different plants and invertebrates can colonise the land.

Main entrance



Morgan's Hill, Mike Roberts WWT. Marsh helleborine, Les Binns. Roman road, Owain Shaw WWT  
Marsh fritillary, John Notman. Mother Shipton, John Notman. Kestrel, Steve Waterhouse

