



Visual Guide

This information is designed to help you prepare for a visit to **Coombe Bissett Down Nature Reserve**.

Created by **Heritage Ability** 



General Information



Photo credit: Emma Kirkup

Coombe Bissett Down Nature Reserve is located south-west of the city of Salisbury.

The site is managed by Wiltshire Wildlife Trust.

The reserve encompasses rolling downland, steep slopes and a dry valley.

Part of the reserve has been designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) because of the rare flora and fauna found here.



Photo credit: Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

The site is 70 hectares.

There is limited access for wheelchairs or pushchairs.

There are no toilet facilities on site.

Getting there



Photo credit: Heather Brown

The reserve can be accessed by car and buses go to Coombe Bissett village. Visit www.salisburyreds.co.uk for more information.

Travelling from Salisbury on the A354 to Blandford, at Coombe Bissett take first turn left after Fox and Goose pub signposted Homington. After about 0.5 miles turn right into Pennings Drove. Follow the road uphill for 0.25 miles.

The main reserve entrance and car park is on the right. It is slightly hidden and there is no signage.



Photo credit: Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

The car park has space for about 7 vehicles. There are no accessible parking bays.

There is signage and a site map in the car park.

There are 5 entrance points to the reserve in total but we advise using the main entrance. This is the only entrance with a car park.

Exploring Coombe Bissett



Photo credit: Heather Brown

Enter the reserve through the kissing gate.

The reserve is steep in places and the path is grass.



Photo credit: Heather Brown

There are 4 different walking trails you can take during your visit:

- Easy Access Trail
- Short Loop
- Hillside Loop
- Valley Loop

The trails are waymarked throughout the site.

Download a reserve leaflet for further information:
<https://bit.ly/3unyaAJ>

Easy Access Trail



Photo credit: Heather Brown

The Easy Access Trail is advised for those with limited mobility.

Follow the flat path to the end of the reserve until you reach the farm and then loop back.



Photo credit: Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

Here you will see stunning views over the valley.

Distance: 1.2km / 0.7 miles

Allow: 20 minutes

Short Loop



Photo credit: Heather Brown

The Short Loop is slightly steep in places.

There are several kissing gates throughout the trail.



Photo credit: Ryan Tabor

Here you will walk past the flower-rich banks.

Distance: 2km / 1.2 miles

Allow: 30 minutes

Hillside Loop



Photo credit: Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

The Hillside Loop is steep in places and some of the paths are narrow.

There are several kissing gates throughout the trail.

The trail has benches with view points overlooking the reserve.



Photo credit: Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

Look out for the butterfly bank on the Hillside Loop.

Distance: 3.2km / 2 miles
Allow: 1 hour

Valley Loop



Photo credit: Louise Hartgill

The Valley Loop takes you to the bottom of the site.

There are several kissing gates throughout the trail.

You may see our flock of hardy Herdwick sheep and herd of light-footed Dexter cattle, which are moved on and off the land to provide conservation grazing.



Photo credit: Heather Brown

There are benches along the route with view points over the reserve.

Please note dogs are not allowed on the valley bottom during lambing season.

Distance: 3.2km / 2 miles
Allow: 1 hour



Photo credit: Steve Day

We ask that all rubbish is taken away with you when you leave.

Please tread carefully as plants and soil can be damaged by trampling.

Dogs must be kept on a short lead at all times.



Photo credit: Darin Smith

We hope you enjoy your visit.



For more information about Heritage Ability,
visit www.heritageability.org

Heritage Ability is part of the disability charity, **Living Options Devon**, registered charity no. 1102489



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