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Esso Oil Pipeline

The Esso oil pipeline from Fawley to Avonmouth(75miles) crosses the trail. It was built in the early 60s. Originally, it helped ICI make terylene in Bristol from oil refined at Fawley. It now carries the four main petroleum products – petrol, diesel, jet fuel and heating oil - in a computer controlled sequencing system.

8



Salisbury Cathedral

The highest medieval spire in Europe (123m/304ft) it was built after the cathedral was 'finished' adding 6500 tons to the structure. The main reason the spire has never collapsed is due to 9m (27ft) of gravel under the foundations. The gravel contains water which cannot be compressed.

9



Flora and Fauna.

The lime rich open downland with thin soils is home to many plants and animals including orchids (Early Purple in May on Cockey Down), Horseshoe Vetch (food of the Chalk Hill Blue butterfly) beech trees, buzzards (often nest in Burroughs Hill), hares, moles, badgers and kestrels (pictured). The chalk grassland is rich in wild flowers such as cow parsley, wild carrot, self-heal and salad burnet.

River Bourne Community Farm

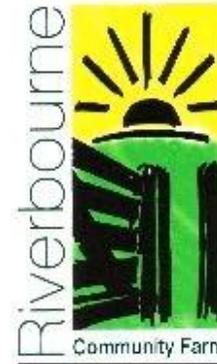
Cow Lane
Laverstock, Salisbury, SP1 2SR
01722 - 330667

www.riverbournecommunityfarm.org.uk

Contact us to become a friend or volunteer and for more information



This trail is being developed as part of the Meadows and Down Project.



1



A



2



River Bourne
Community Farm
Meadows & Down Trails

Laverstock Down Trail
Trail Information

Things to See This leaflet contains information on all of the points around the trail. The Directions, Map and information on Parking are in a separate leaflet. Both leaflets are available at the River Bourne Community Farm or can be downloaded from the website at www.riverbournecommunityfarm.org.uk. Or you can scan this barcode and the others that can be found on waymarkers around the trail.



Right of Access Land

Allows recreational activities on foot such as walking and bird-watching to areas of uncultivated open countryside voluntarily dedicated by the landowner, who reserves the right to close the land for up to 28 days a year.

Riverbourne Community Farm

This is the remains of an arable field corner dating back to Roman times. The community farm with all four trails can be seen– The Farm, Laverstock Down, Hampton Park and Old Sarum. The fields below show traditional versus modern farming techniques. Old varieties of corn are grown and the right-hand corner is being cultured as a wildflower meadow. The gate allows the cattle to wander freely between the Down and wildflower meadow spreading the seed naturally in their hooves.

Hooper's Hedge Hypothesis

Over a 30 metre section the age of the hedge = no. of species x 100.

B



Clarendon Estate and Palace

To the east of the trail is the c5500 acre Clarendon Estate with the remains of Clarendon Palace. Henry II and III invested heavily in the property, converting it into a Royal residence, Palace and hunting lodge. It fell into disrepair during the reign of Elizabeth I.

4



Coombe

A Coombe is a rounded valley produced during the last Ice Age. Water running off frozen slopes had a scouring action which removed surface material to form the coombe. The material was deposited at the bottom of the slope as Coombe Rock.

3



Chalk and Trees

The clump of trees on top of the Down are beech. They love chalk as they are shallow rooted but often indicate clay with flints deposit. Behind the clump is a small stand of Scots Pine, once a native of this country but reintroduced after dying out 300-400 yrs ago.

5/D



SSSI

There are over 4,000 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) in England, covering 7% of the country's land area. Many are also National Nature Reserves (NNRs) or Local Nature Reserves (LNRs). SSSIs support plants and animals that find it more difficult to survive in the wider countryside.

C



Rivers and airfields

Salisbury sits at the joining of the Nadder, Ebble (which is just to the South), Wylde (which gave its name to Wiltshire) and Bourne (meaning stream); all are tributary to the Avon (an old English word meaning river), which flows to the south coast and into the sea at Christchurch, Dorset.



This land has been given SSSI status because it is a scarce example of unimproved chalk grassland that is rich in plants and insects. Among the plants you may see are the Fragrant Orchid and the Pyramidal Orchid (Pictured)

6



Chalk downland

Chalk is a very pure limestone laid down in ancient seas over a period of ~100 million years. In places it is 1000ft thick. Chalk is composed of the calcium of tiny sea creatures' skeletons. Flint, a form of silica, is made from sea sponges' remains, that lived in the ocean where chalk was deposited.



North is Larkhill army base where military aviation started in 1911. The grass World War 1 airfield at Old Sarum (North West) is one of only two surviving. On the horizon between Boscombe Down and Old Sarum is High Post which in World War II housed another airfield where Spitfires, built in Salisbury, were assembled and test flown.