

Welcome to THE ANT HILL TRAIL

The Ant Hill Trail has been developed for two reasons.

Firstly to provide a fascinating, wildlife-rich circular walk which offers a little seen glimpse of the West Dorset Countryside and links two very special Nature Reserves together; Loscombe and South Poorton.

Secondly, as part of a wider initiative to explain a little about why the landscape looks as it does and how by working together the community can maintain, connect and rebuild Dorset's biodiversity & establish a sustainable rural economy.

Farmers have worked the land here for generations; resulting in a balance between managing the land profitably and ensuring that wildlife can thrive. The Ant Hill Trail is a celebration of the partnership between local farmers, conservationists and residents. It is living proof that a landscape can be worked and yet filled with stunning views, extraordinary plants and amazing insects at every turn.

The landscape is criss-crossed with hedges and tracks, created by people for controlling their animals, marking boundaries, for getting around on foot and on horseback. There are historic 'strip lynchets' (massive terraces dug into the hillside to create flatland for crops); an ancient lime kiln, a coppice once used for hurdle making and an old mill. There are hills, valleys, streams and meadows where wildflowers and birds exist in abundance. Make sure you look out for the ant-hills; these occur in areas of undisturbed grasslands and some of the ant hills could have been around for many years. Enjoy the trail!

The landowners around the route have all participated in developing The Ant Hill Trail, and have stressed that whilst they support the walk and its aims, the Countryside Code should be observed at all times:

Be safe, plan ahead and follow any signs

Leave gates and property as you find them

Protect plants and animals and take your litter home

Keep dogs under close control

Consider other people



Location of Anthill Trail

The Anthill Trail starts in South Poorton Reserve at SY 512 975 (OS Cerne Abbas & Bere Regis 1:25000). The reserve is on Ridgeback Lane which runs west out of South Poorton. South Poorton is 12 miles west of Maiden Newton, 6 miles north-east of Bridport and 6 miles south-east of Beaminster.

The Ant Hill Trail and reserves are managed and supported by:

Dorset Wildlife Trust - the largest conservation charity in Dorset, with over 25,000 members. We manage over 1,200 hectares as nature reserves and inspire countless people to love Dorset's wonderful nature. We are widely respected as a protector and champion of Dorset's biodiversity. For more information www.dorsetwildlife.co.uk

The Grasslands Trust - set up to reverse the terrible losses of our beautiful wildlife-rich meadows, so they can continue to be enjoyed by generations to come. We are a national charity with a local focus, and look after reserves across England and Wales. For more details www.grasslands-trust.org

The Kingcombe Centre - Dorset's premier environmental education centre offering a wide range of day and residential courses for all age groups and abilities. It also provides wonderful bed and breakfast accommodation in stunning surroundings. Why not visit the centre near Toller Porcorum and see for yourself? For course information and other events: www.kingcombe-centre.demon.co.uk



Trail posts sponsored by:

Wooden Tiger
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Boards artwork sponsored by:

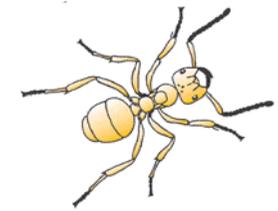
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The Ant Hill Trail

A wildlife-rich circular walk in the West Dorset Countryside



The Ant Hill Trail

