

Welcome

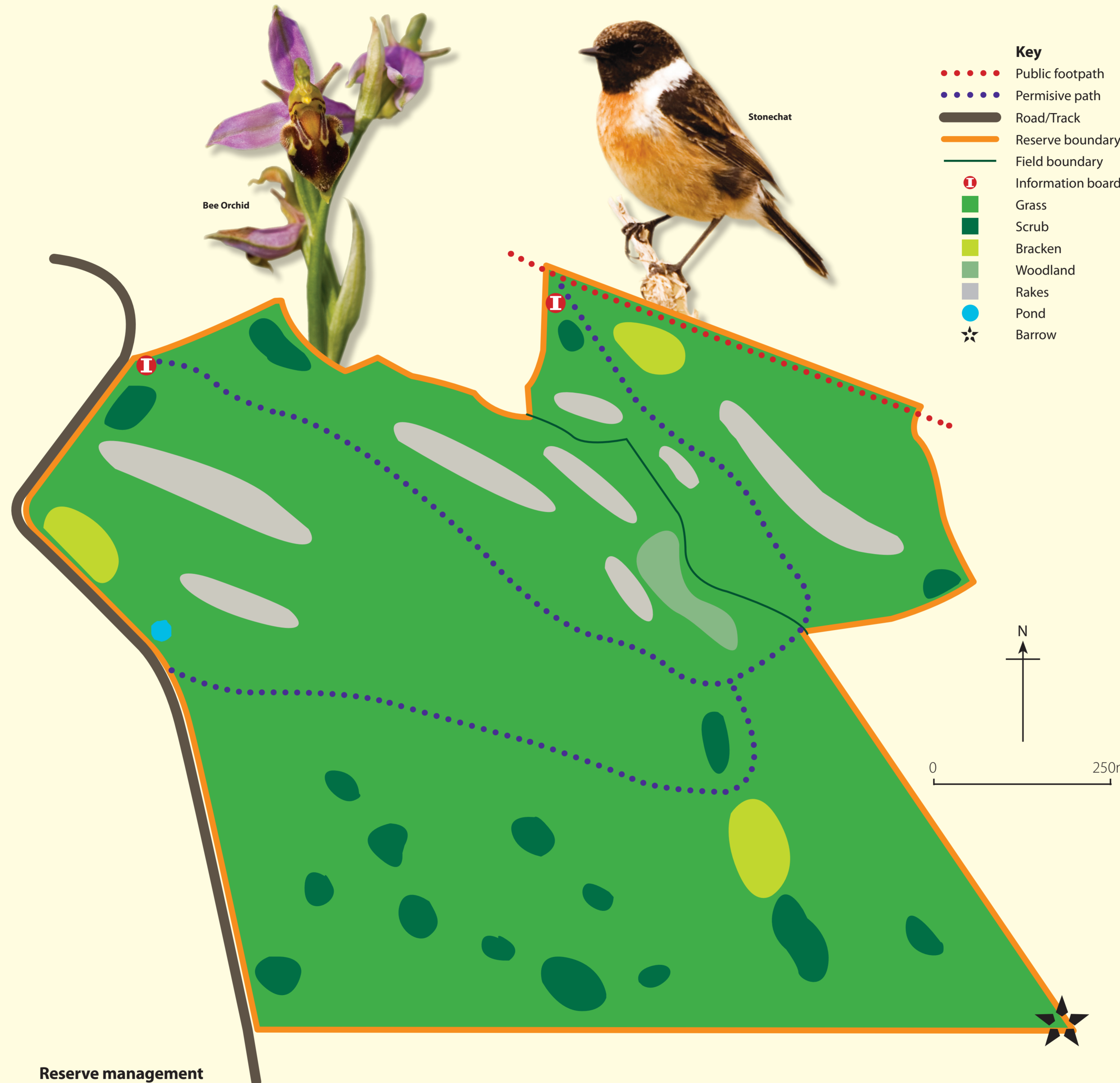
Why this is a special place:

- Lead was mined at Ubley Warren in pre-Roman times, continuing through to the 19th century and evidenced by the presence of rakes and bell-pits scattered across the site. This disturbed land is known locally as 'gruffy' ground, with lead still contaminating the soil in many places.
- Past industrial activity has helped a mosaic of vegetation types to form on the reserve. Where soils are deeper, acid grassland and heathland typified by plants such as Heather, Western Gorse and Tormentil can be found. In areas where the soil is thinner, the influence of the underlying limestone rock has allowed plants such as Wild Thyme, Autumn Gentian, Bee Orchid and the rare Soft-leaved Sedge to thrive.
- This is a great place to see reptiles. Adder, Grass Snake, Slow-worm and Common Lizard can be seen basking on the rock outcrops and dry stone walls during the spring and summer.
- Look out for the distinctive Stonechat perched on the Gorse bushes and dry stone walls. During spring and summer you may also see Wheatear hopping amongst anthills.

Ubley Warren Nature Reserve is a 35 hectare (87 acres) Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), bought by Somerset Wildlife Trust from Bristol University in 1989.



Tormentil ©Matt Sweeting



Reserve management

The reserve is managed primarily by grazing with cattle during the spring and summer, which keeps the vegetation low to allow flowering plants to flourish. Encroaching scrub is cleared to restore the grassland, although some smaller patches are being retained to provide cover for insects and birds. Invasive species are also being controlled to prevent them from dominating the grassland.

Save Our Magnificent Meadows

This interpretation panel has been produced as part of Save Our Magnificent Meadows - a UK-wide partnership project to transform the fortunes of our vanishing wildflower meadows, grasslands and wildlife, primarily funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. magnificentmeadows.org.uk



Common Lizard ©Heath McDonald | merdipwildlifephotography.co.uk

⚠ Access and safety

- Visitors on foot are welcome to walk in the reserve throughout the year.
- The mining activity has left many depressions which may contain mineshafts - some are gridded but others may open up at any time. Please take care and do not enter any mineshafts.
- Horses and cycles are not permitted.
- There are areas of natural rock face on the reserve. Please take care to avoid any unprotected drops and be aware of the potential for falling rocks.
- The paths and tracks have uneven surfaces in places and can be slippery in areas of exposed rock.
- Animals may be grazing at any time of year, therefore please keep dogs under close control and clean up after them.
- Camping and fires are not permitted.
- Be aware that machinery may occasionally be operating on site. Please follow any safety instructions given on temporary signs.

Are you able to help support our work?

Somerset Wildlife Trust works all year round to protect the wildlife you love. Alongside managing over 1,700 hectares of land across the county, we also provide wildlife-friendly land management advice, campaign and educate to make sure Somerset remains one of the most wildlife-rich places in the UK. With limited resources and funding we are only able to do this thanks to the help we receive from our members and supporters - and people like you who visit these special places and understand their value.

For information about how you can get involved and support our work, including becoming a member or volunteering on this site and others, please go to www.somersetwildlife.org or call 01823 652 400.