



The still waters of the disused canal provide perfect breeding grounds for golden-ringed dragonflies (Photo: CRoot)

Enjoying your visit

To get the most from your visit without harming the wildlife which lives there, please remember:

Respect wildlife

Don't pick flowers or disturb nesting birds! Please be aware that Dunsdon is a protected site under UK and EU legislation. If you see any particularly exciting wildlife during your visit please tell us by recording your sightings at www.devonwildlifetrust.org

Getting around

Generally the terrain is wet and uneven. Wear sensible clothing and make sure you have the right footwear.

Gates

Leave all gates as you find them.

Cattle & dogs

Do not approach grazing livestock. Dogs are welcome on the nature reserve but please keep them on a short lead at all times.

Take care

Visitors are reminded that all areas of the countryside contain inherent, natural hazards so we ask you to take suitable and sufficient precautions to avoid injury or harm.

How to find Dunsdon National Nature Reserve

By public transport

For up to date bus and rail timetable information call 0871 2002233 (open 7am-9pm daily except Christmas day).

By car

From Holsworthy, take the A3072 west towards Bude, after 2 ½ miles take a right turn to Pancrasweek. Continue north past Pancrasweek church for about a mile, turn right at the T-junction, through Lana, following the lane round a sharp left bend. The entrance to the nature reserve is on the left, just before Gains Cross (grid reference SS302 080). There is a car park at the end of the driveway.

Nearest telephone, public toilets and refreshments are next to the main car park in Holsworthy.

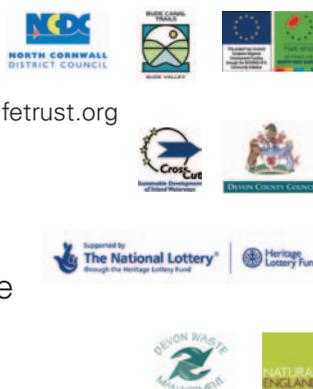


For more information about other DWT nature reserves, our work or how to become a member, contact

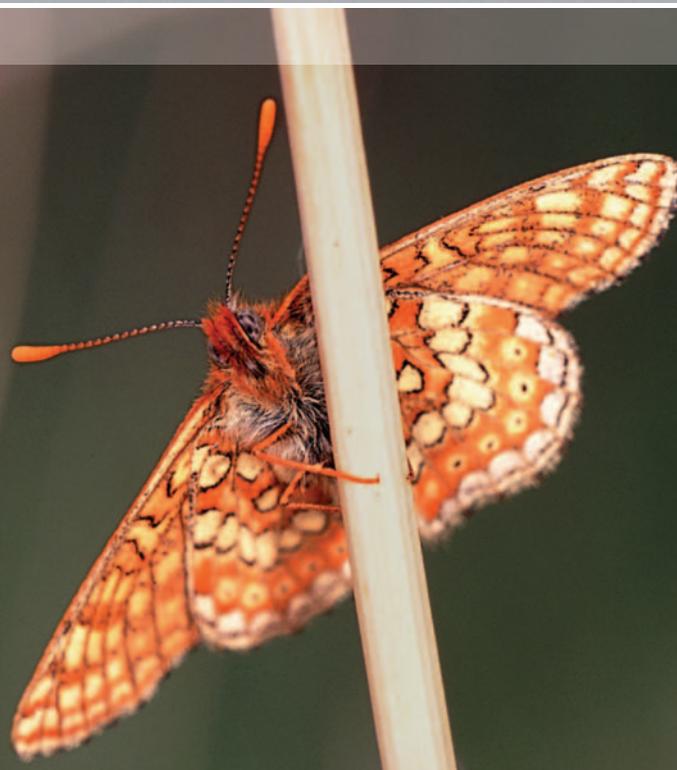
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Discover Dunsdon National Nature Reserve



Join DWT at www.devonwildlifetrust.org

Protecting Wildlife for the Future

True Survivor

Dunsdon National Nature Reserve is one of the last survivors of Culm – an old landscape of boggy grassland, heath and woodland fringes, unique to the south west of England and Wales. Culm still exists here because of Dunsdon's damp acidic soils, and because while the land around was transformed by ploughing and draining, it escaped as an island of traditional farming.

Today the tradition of light summer grazing with winter burning (known as swaling) keeps Dunsdon in prime condition for wildlife. Devon Wildlife Trust is working to secure the future of Culm grassland here and across this region.

- 1 The boardwalk follows an old track through wet woodland of birch, willow alder and hazel.
- 2 A viewpoint looks across a traditional Culm grassland meadow. Listen here for the harsh 'frank' calls from an old heronry nearby.
- 3 Dunsdon is at its best between May and September when a wander through its rough Culm pasture reveals wildflowers, butterflies and insects.
- 4 The old Bude Canal passes through the nature reserve. It last carried tub-boats 100 years ago, transporting lime-rich sea-sand to the acid farmland soils hereabouts. Lengths of the towpath survive today and at Dunsdon these form the Aqueduct Trail, five miles of path between Burmsdon Aqueduct and Tamar Lakes.

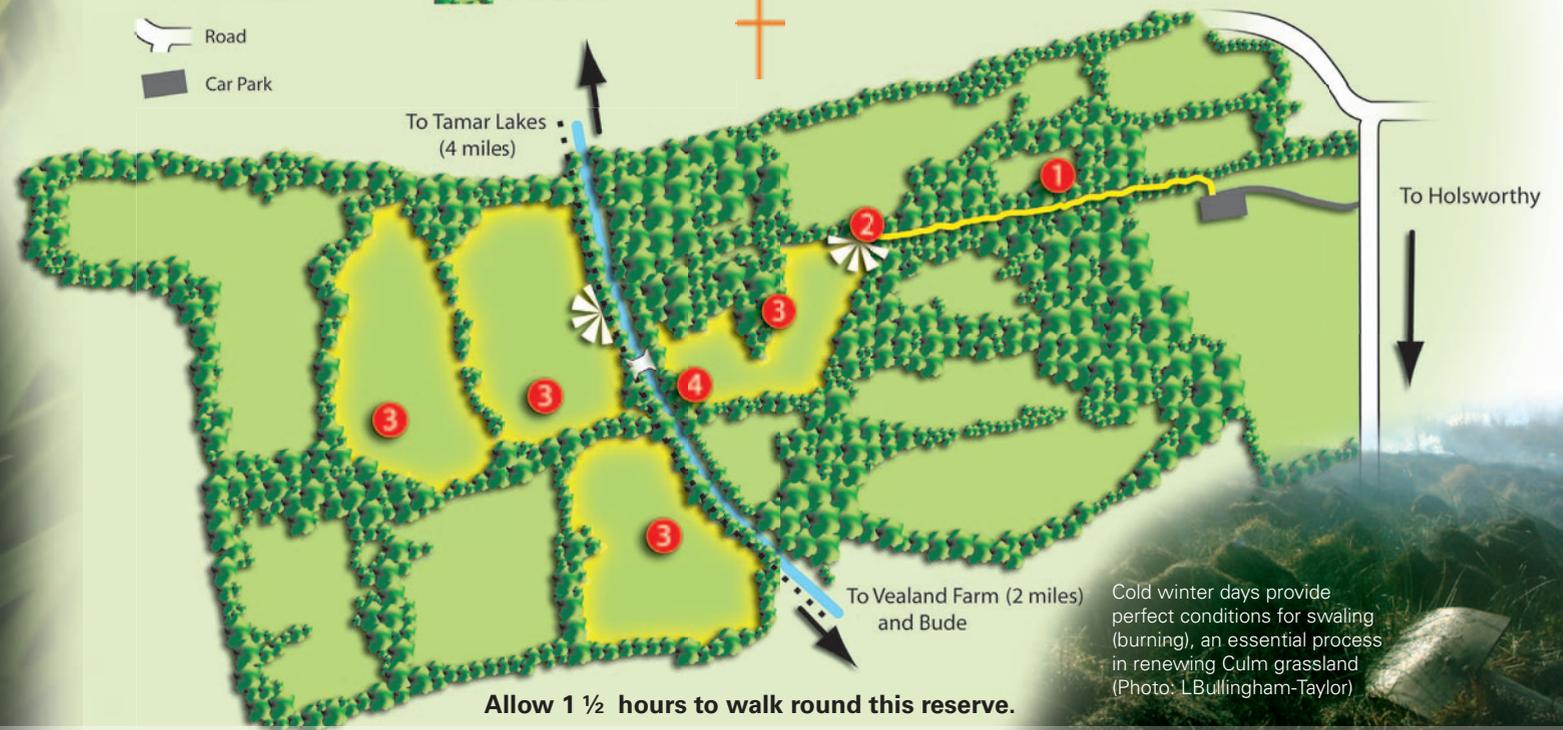


Key

- Viewing Point + Information Point
- Easy Access boardwalk
- Field Ramble
- Aqueduct Trail
- Quiet Zone
- Road
- Car Park



Scale



Allow 1 ½ hours to walk round this reserve.

Cold winter days provide perfect conditions for swaling (burning), an essential process in renewing Culm grassland (Photo: LBullingham-Taylor)

The marsh thistle is one of many nectar rich flowers found on Culm grassland that are used by butterflies such as marbled white and the rare marsh fritillary (see front cover)

(Photos: marbled white K New, lesser butterfly orchid G Pilkington)

