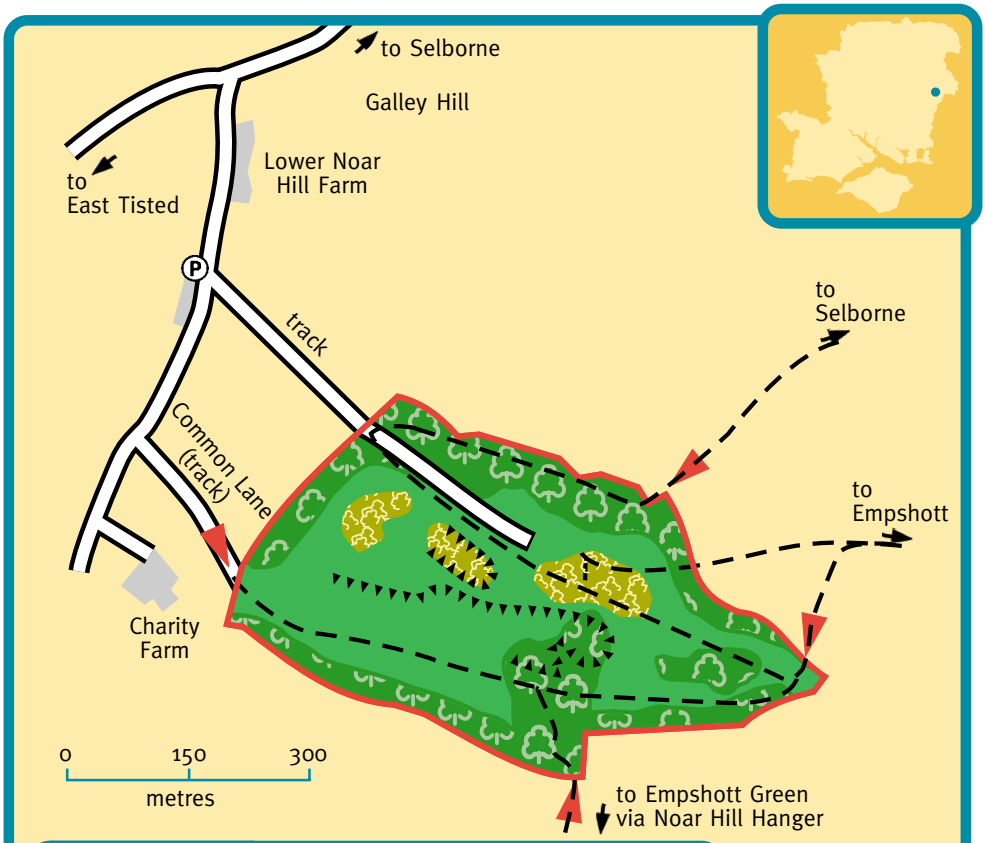
Noar Hill

One of the most interesting chalk grassland and scrub sites in Britain, rich in flowers and butterflies.



Habitat Type	*Chalk grassland and scrub mosaic*
Size of Reserve	*20 hectares / 49 acres*
Special Features	**SSSI**
OS Map Number	*186*
Grid Reference	*SU 742 319*
Nearest Town	*One mile south of Selborne*
Nearest Rail Station	*Liss - 3.5 miles*
Tourist Information	*Alton 01420 88448*
Best Time to Visit	*Summer - flowers / butterflies*



Grasshopper
Photo by Richard Bowsher

HOW TO GET THERE

Leaving Selborne south on the B3006, take first right towards Newton Valence, up the hill, then first left down 'dead-end' road. The reserve can be reached via either the first or second track (bridleway) on your left. Park on the road verge near the bottom of either track, with consideration to other motorists.

ACCESS

Open access. Please keep to the paths to avoid trampling the plants. For group visits please contact the Wildlife Trust first.

Nearest bus route Selborne (route 72).

SITE DESCRIPTION

Noar Hill, once the site of medieval chalk workings, is now carpeted by flowering plants growing on the chalk. A walk through this unusual and historic landscape is always a fascinating experience. The ridges, banks and hollows provide a variety of niches that allow many different species to thrive. The large numbers of breeding butterflies (over 35 species) and scarce plants create an oasis of colour amongst the surrounding arable fields. Grazing with sheep and cattle and scrub clearance are carried out.

WILDLIFE

- Over a dozen species of orchid can be found at Noar Hill, with particularly impressive numbers of Musk Orchid.
- There are strong populations of Cowslips, Juniper and scarce species such as Dragon's-teeth and Hairy Rock-cress.
- Duke of Burgundy and Brown Hairstreak are two of the most important of over 35 breeding butterfly species to be found here.
- There are other invertebrates of interest including Glow-worms, Rufous Grasshopper and the bizarre Fairy Shrimp, which lives in temporary puddles on the rutted track and survives as an egg when the puddles dry out.

NEARBY SITES OF INTEREST

The Warren Wildlife Reserve - *see page 136*
Ancient woodland tumbling down the slope of a deep chalk coombe.

Weavers Down Bog Wildlife Reserve
- see page 139
Part of the nationally important Woolmer forest, a fine example of wet heath, valley mire and acid grassland.

FACT BOX

Duke of Burgundy
The Duke of Burgundy butterfly is a declining species found in woodland glades and on grasslands surrounded by scrub. Its caterpillars feed on Primrose and Cowslips. The adults require nectar when on the wing between May and early June and the adult male establishes a 'perching post' on bushes or old flower heads during the breeding season.