



Box Hill Lower Common

THODAY WOOD

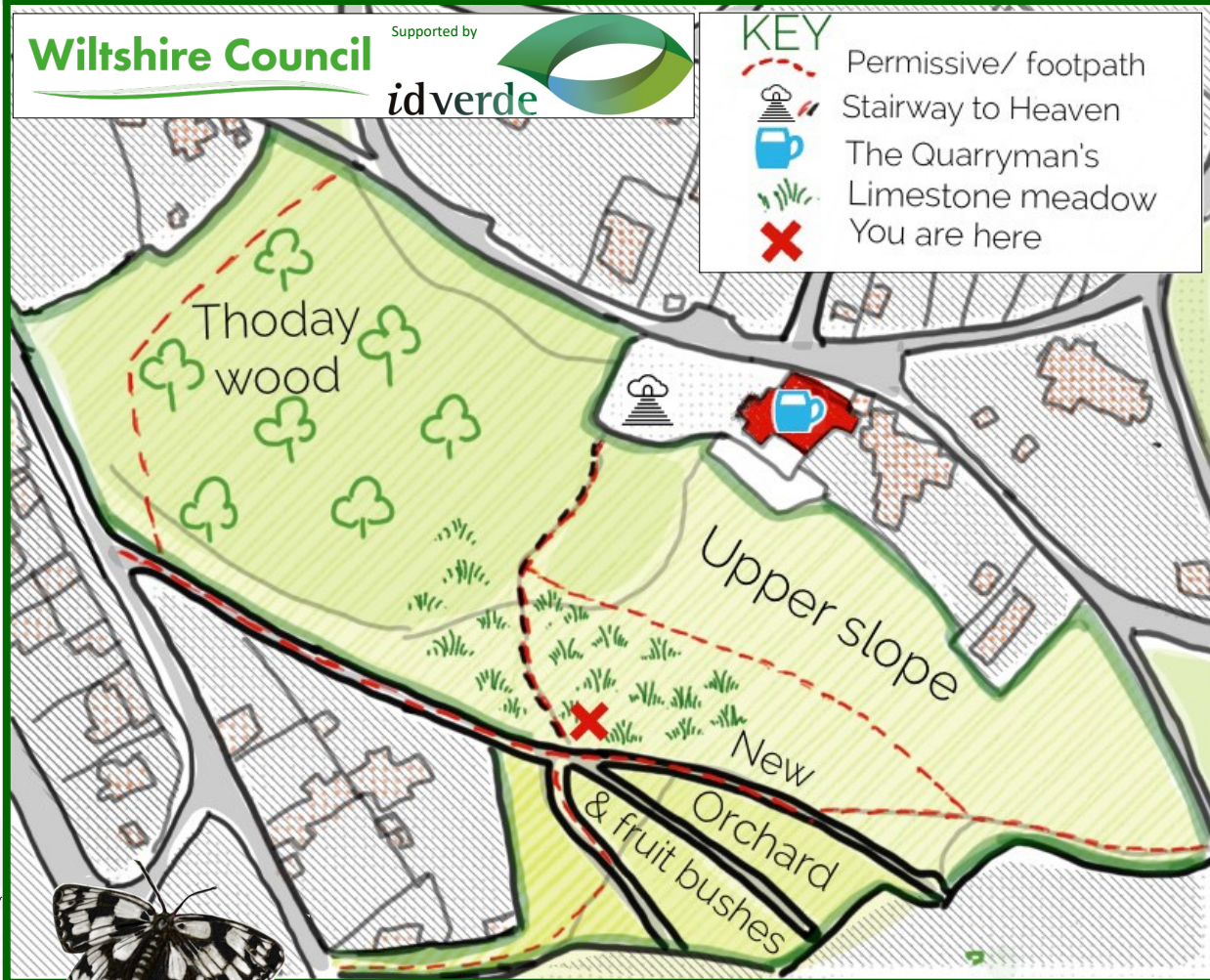
Alongside the 'Stairway to Heaven' the woodland follows a natural cycle of growth, maturity, decline and regeneration. Fallen trees and the 'dead hedges' created from management provide an important habitat for fungi, ferns, insects, birds and small mammals which add to the diversity and ecology of the area.

THE COMMUNITY ORCHARD

was established in 2023 for Parish residents (See information board)

FLOWERS AND BUTTERFLIES

A former site for limestone quarrying, this is an important and increasingly rare ecological habitat for wildlife. In recent years, without grazing, tree saplings grew, threatening this limestone meadow habitat, which was almost lost forever.



THE UPPER SLOPE

above the permissive path is covered with scrubby vegetation: brambles, hazel, dogwood and hawthorn. Coppicing is used to manage the area to benefit wildlife. The soil, enriched over the years allowed nettles, wild clematis, and hemp agrimony to become dominant.

This area is maintained by Box Parish Council with support from the Cotswold Wardens, the Community Payback team and the Lower Common Community Group. Work parties ensure the scrub is cut back and invasive species removed, to allow the growth of more delicate plants. Clippings are removed to maintain the low levels of nutrients the wildflowers require. Contact clerk@boxparishcouncil.gov.uk for information or to get involved.



Greater Knapweed
(*Centaurea scabiosa*)

Yellow Rattle
(*Rhianthus Minor*)

THE LIMESTONE MEADOW

has not been degraded by the use of fertilisers, insecticides or herbicides. This has enabled the creation of a habitat which is species-rich supporting an abundance of wildflowers, butterflies, insects, animals, reptiles and birds.

a. Meadow brown b. Marbled White c. Common Blue



Pyramidal Orchid
(*Anacamptis pyramidalis*)



Horseshoe Vetch
(*Hippocrepis Comosa*)








Common Spotted Orchid
(*Dactylorhiza fuchsii*)



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KEY

-  Permissive/ footpath
-  Stairway to Heaven
-  The Quarryman's
-  Limestone meadow
-  You are here

