

MEADOWLAND • WOODLAND • HEDGEROWS • WETLAND • ORCHARD • BUTTERFLY GARDEN

LINGFIELD
nature reserves 





KNAPWEED

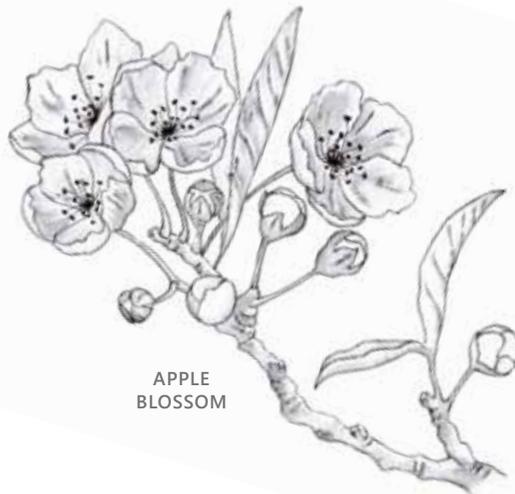
MEADOWLAND

Bloomer's Field, Beacon Field and the Wildflower Meadow are areas of meadowland. These are mown annually in late summer when the wildflower seeds have fallen. The cut hay is removed to reduce the soil fertility and allow the wildflowers to compete with the more dominant grasses. These areas support an increasingly diverse community of meadow plants including Yellow Rattle, Bird's Foot Trefoil, Knapweed, Meadow Buttercup and Tufted Vetch.

Jenner's Field is a public recreation area and therefore the central area is mown more frequently, but the above mowing regime is followed for the boundaries.

ORCHARD

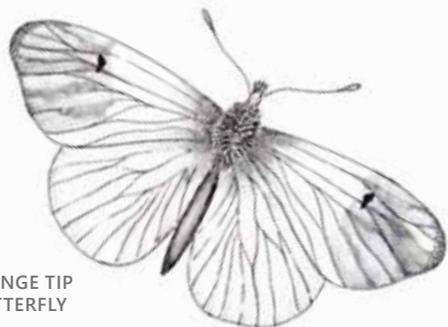
The Community Orchard is planted as a traditional orchard with wide spacing between the trees and many are old varieties. The fruit is not grown for commercial use, but shared between the birds, insects and animals - as well as our human visitors. The mowing regime is the same as for the meadowland but paths are kept mown in the long grass throughout the Summer. On the eastern side are culinary and dessert apples with some crab apples to aid pollination. On the other side are stone fruits including damsons, plums, bullace and cherries and to the north are wild pears, dessert and perry pears, medlars, quince, almond and mulberries.



APPLE BLOSSOM

BUTTERFLY GARDEN

The Butterfly Garden and adjoining Quiet Garden are areas planted with flowers and shrubs to provide nectar over a long period specifically to attract butterflies, moths, bees and other pollinating insects. The shelter of the surrounding shrubs and trees provides a warm and still habitat favoured by these insects and, for some, a place to lay their eggs. Being relatively secluded these are also popular areas for birds.



ORANGE TIP BUTTERFLY

WOODLAND

We have two main areas of woodland, Coldharbour Copse and Derek Slade Spinney, both located in Bloomer's Field. They are planted with native trees including Ash, Oak, Hornbeam, Small Leaved Lime, Hazel and Whitebeam. These areas are managed by some coppicing, pollarding and thinning out of original trees to bring light to the woodland floor and encourage wildflowers and woodland butterflies.

Throughout the Reserves there are many other trees planted singly and in small groups. Native trees provide food and shelter for a wide variety of insects and other invertebrates, and where insects are plentiful, so are birds.



OAK

MALE SISKIN



HEDGEROWS

All our hedges are made up of native species including Blackthorn, Dogwood, Field Maple, Hazel, Hawthorn and Dog Rose. These are managed by laying and trimming in succession to keep wildlife corridors thick and dense. These provide food and shelter for the many birds and other small creatures that use them. All our hedging work is carried out in late Autumn and Winter to avoid disturbing the birds during the nesting season. Standard trees are left to grow on at intervals in the hedgerows.

In the North West corner of Bloomer's field we have a stretch of hedge made up exclusively of fruiting trees and shrubs including Gooseberry, Raspberry, Currants, Rowans & Crab Apples to provide another source of food.

WETLAND

In the South-East corner of Bloomers Field we have a Wetland area comprising two ponds linked by a low boggy area which floods during prolonged wet weather. The ponds are filled only by surface run-off so levels change throughout the year, creating varying habitats. Many creatures live in and around the ponds including Newts, Frogs, Toads, Grass Snakes, Dragonflies and Damselflies.

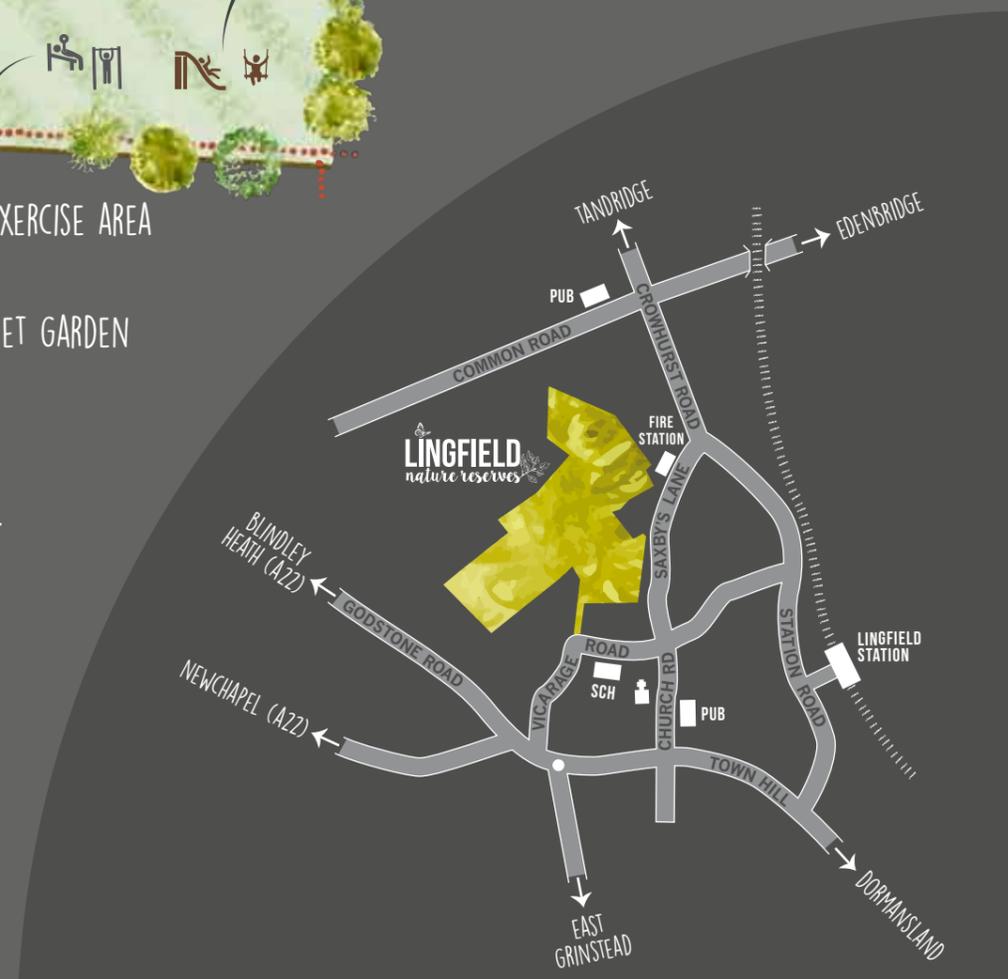
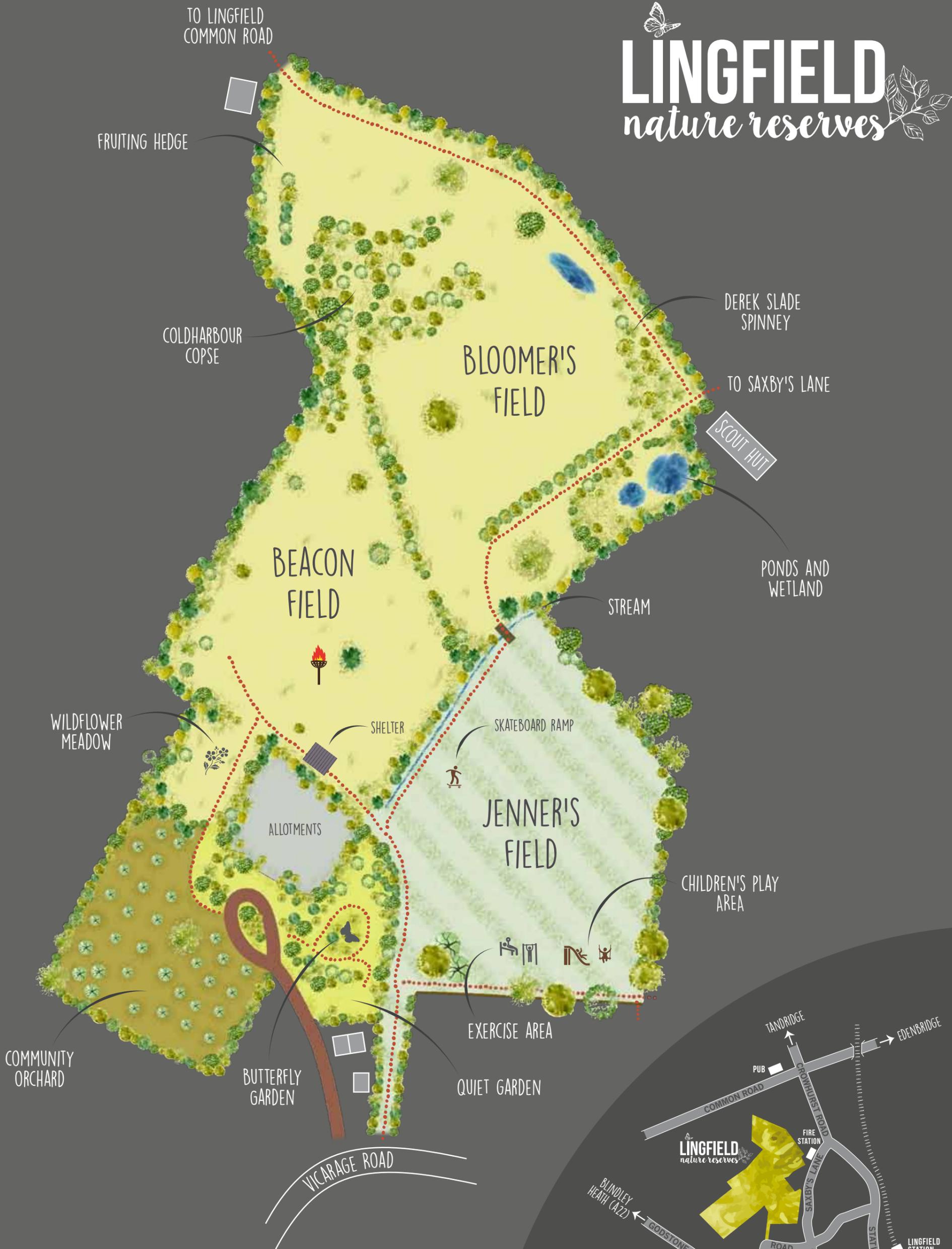
Nearby, also in Bloomer's Field, are some scrapes and ditches that hold water for most of the year but dry up during the warm Summer months. The sunny, south facing banks of these are a haven for butterflies.



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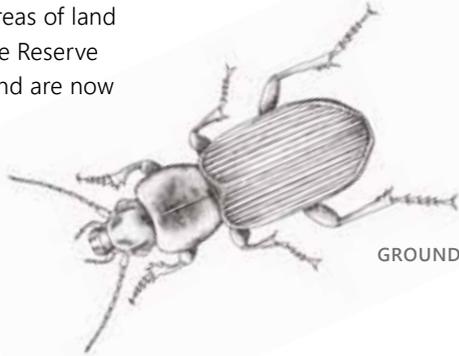


ABOUT LINGFIELD NATURE RESERVES

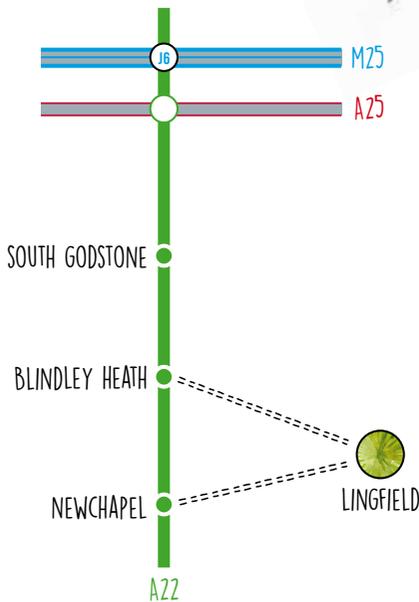
In the mid 1990's two adjoining areas of land owned by Lingfield Parish Council and Tandridge District Council, were placed in the care of a Management Committee of local people to establish a wildlife project. Since then we have created Woodland areas, Hedgerows, a Community Orchard, large areas of Meadowland, a Wetland area and a Butterfly Garden. Both areas of land were awarded Local Nature Reserve status by English Nature and are now jointly known as Lingfield Nature Reserves.

OUR AIMS

This is a community project, run by local people, aimed at restoring this part of the old Lingfield Common to a condition our forefathers would recognise. Modern farming methods have driven much of our wildlife from the countryside - our aim is to bring it back. We are continuing to increase biodiversity within a local amenity for the pleasure and education of all, including people using wheelchairs and pushchairs.



GROUND BEETLE



HOW TO FIND US

We are close to the centre of Lingfield in Surrey (RH7 6HA) with access to the Reserves from Vicarage Road, adjacent to the Vicarage, or Saxbys Lane, adjacent to the Fire Station. Lingfield is close to the A22 (turn off at Blindley Heath or Newchapel – about 5 miles south of the M25, junction 6). We are also on the main railway line, Victoria to East Grinstead, with the reserves a short walk from Lingfield station.

LINGFIELDRESERVES.ORG.UK

