

JUBILEE MEADOWS

A WALK THROUGH A VILLAGE NATURE RESERVE

Milford Lane gate



Round Top

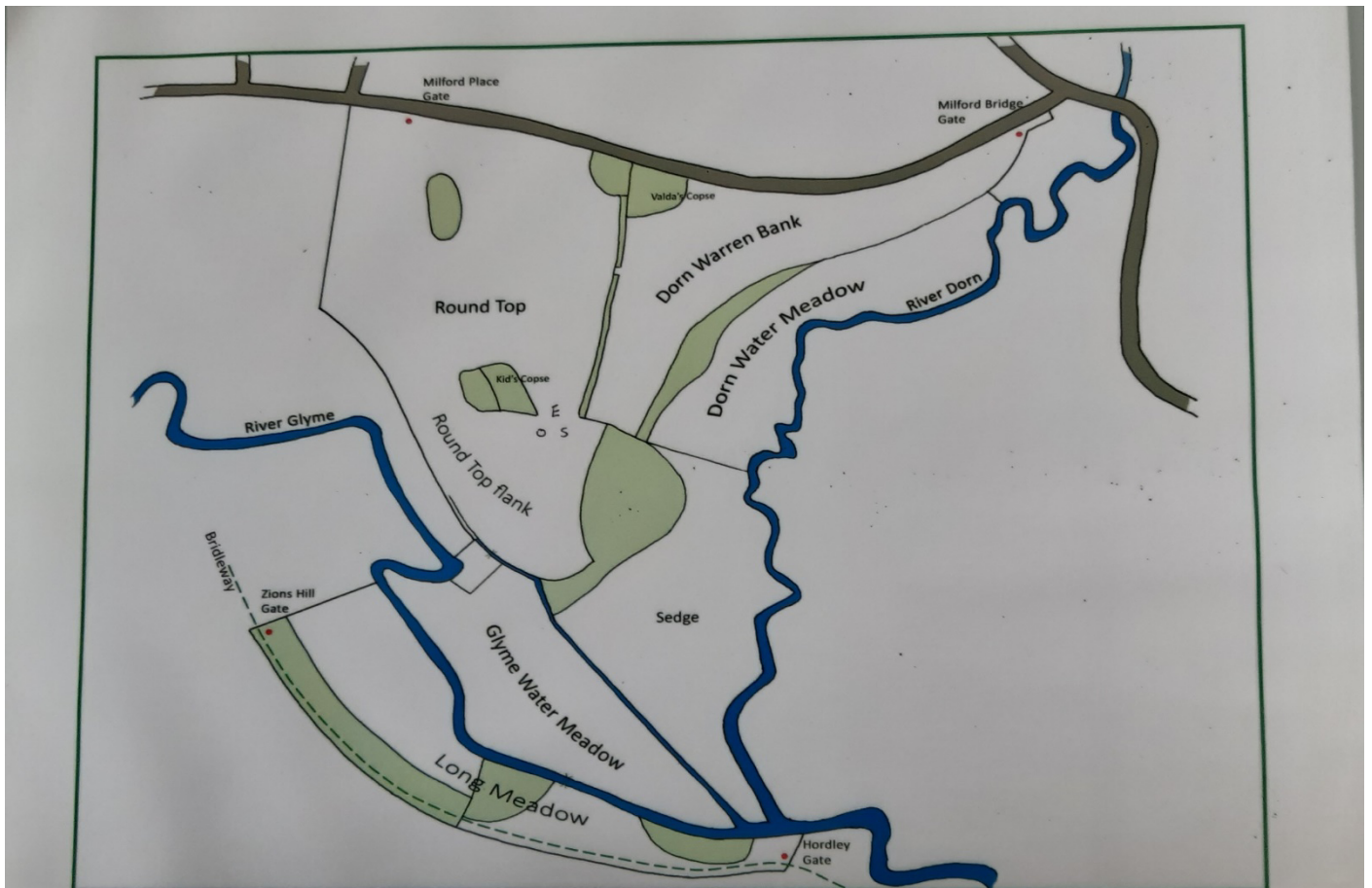


Round Top S.E. flank



Dorn Warren Bank





JUBILEE MEADOWS NATURE RESERVE MAP

Our village nature reserve (Jubilee Meadows and Long Meadow) is home to some nationally rare and diverse habitats.

As you enter Jubilee Meadows from Milford Lane, you are entering an area of ‘calcareous grassland’, a largely unimproved meadow grassland habitat which has nationally declined dramatically since World War 2. Known as **Round Top**, and at its height in Summer, this area is home to many of the indicator species of calcareous grassland such as Lady’s Bedstraw and Bird’s Foot Trefoil – and with it, a diversity of insect life. Marbled White butterflies are frequently seen in large numbers through the summer, along with Meadow Browns, Common Blues, Six-spot Burnet moths and many other species. From the bench by **Kid’s Copse** (planted by local children in the early 2000s), you can look out over the Water Meadows and back to the village. At the back of Kids’ Copse are three disease-resistant Elm trees, planted recently to increase the biodiversity of the tree species on the Meadow.



Marbled White butterfly

From Milford Lane gate, it is possible to take a path to the left which will lead you down to **Dorn Warren Bank**, a gently sloping field which is home to many Pyramidal Orchids in early Summer. This field overlooks the **Dorn Water Meadow** which is kept as a nature reserve – public access is not permitted here in order to prevent disturbing nesting birds and other wildlife.



Pyramidal Orchids

Look out over the water meadow though – Starlings and Green Woodpeckers nest in holes in the trees, and wading birds can be seen at ground level. Dorn Warren bank has two paths, one leading you down the hill and back to the road at Milford bridge, the other leading you back onto **Round Top flank**.

From the bench on Round Top, follow the path down the hill to the **Glyme Water Meadow**. As its name suggests, this area is frequently waterlogged which leads to a different plant range – in summer, this area is covered with plants such as Sedges and Meadowsweet.



The river Glyme winds its way through this area, bringing with it a diversity of life – Mayflies in spring, closely followed by Dragonfly and Damselfly species such as the Beautiful and Banded Demoiselles. The river contains Trout and Signal Crayfish, and Otter are sometimes spotted here. Herons and Egrets (Little and Great) are common visitors.

Over the bridge on Glyme Water Meadow leads you into **Long Meadow** – as its name suggests, a long strip of largely north-facing land containing a sloping meadow (more orchids!) characterised by clouds of Meadowsweet in summer. The path to the left leads out to Hordley, while the path up the hill leads you on to the bridleway (the only public right of way on the reserve) through an area of woodland. On a warm summer evening, this is home to a hive of bat activity – Pipistrelle bats and other species hunt up and down the woodland path. While the trees are managed for safety, fallen trees and branches are left where possible as a valuable habitat for many insects and fungi. The gate out of Long Meadow leads you over a field and back into the village.



Glyme water Meadow in flood

Pyramidal Orchid with Meadow Brown Butterfly



Bee Orchid

