



RIVER BOURNE COMMUNITY FARM MEADOW AND DOWN TRAIL



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www.iverbournecommunityfarm.org.uk

Trail Time	This farm trail takes about an hour and a half at a steady walking pace.
Trail Number	Trail Description
1	Start at the River Bourne Community Farm Shop. Walk down Cow Lane to the Farm entrance. Look out for the Willow Fox in with the Chickens and Traditional Orchard trees to your right. Turn left at the end of Cow Lane and walk up to the bridge over the River Bourne. Look out for trout and grayling in the river.
2	Carry on along the road and re-join the river just past the Old Mill. This is a good stretch of the river to see Water Voles and Moorhens.
3	There are fine views across the meadows and the farm's Willow spinney from the road. Cross the main road here and walk up to the Duck pub.
4	Immediately before the Duck pub turn left up the bridleway and follow the edge of the wood. This is a hangar wood with native trees including Yew and Oak. The path is known as Pilgrims Way and was a favoured route by Pilgrims travelling to Salisbury Cathedral.
5	Take the left hand of two kissing gates and walk up onto Laverstock Down. The down is

	covered in wildflowers and native grasses. Climb up a steep grassy bank. This is the remains of an arable field corner dating back to Roman times. Look back for some wonderful views across Laverstock and Salisbury. The arable field immediately in front of you is leased by the community farm. We are growing Spring Barley and Long Straw Wheat as well as establishing a flower meadow in one corner of the field and wildlife habitat around the margins of the field.	
6	Turn down the track between our arable field and another arable field which is managed using modern methods of production. Listen out for song birds who are starting to gather for the winter.	
7	Half-way down the track look out for the remains of a wooden cattle penning. The cattle used to walk across from here to the meadows below. These days the road is rather too busy so we load cattle and sheep higher up on the Downs.	
8	Turn right at the end of the track and cross the road. Follow the metalled track past the Laverstock Sports Club to the wooden footbridge across the River Bourne.	
9	At the Wooden bridge have a rest and peer into the river. This is an excellent place to watch fish and other wildlife. There may be some waterbirds including the Kingfisher and the Little Egret. Follow the path from the bridge across the water meadows.	
10	Just before the path passes under the railway bank turn left through a metal gate and on to the kissing gate. This small enclosed area has recently been restored by young people and will soon feature a bench to sit and enjoy the wildlife. Follow the path along the railway bank through a gap in a hedge and down onto the meadows. There is a choice of paths back to the Farm Shop where we would be glad to hear about your adventure!	
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View of Laverstock Down from the Community Farm's Arable field