

Summer Trail

9 Turn left onto a small public road that climbs uphill briefly with Dorset Wildlife Trust's Hendover Coppice on the right. This woodland is home to the endangered hazel doormouse. Turn sharp left at the junction and walk down the road with Friary Land to the left and right.



Friary Land

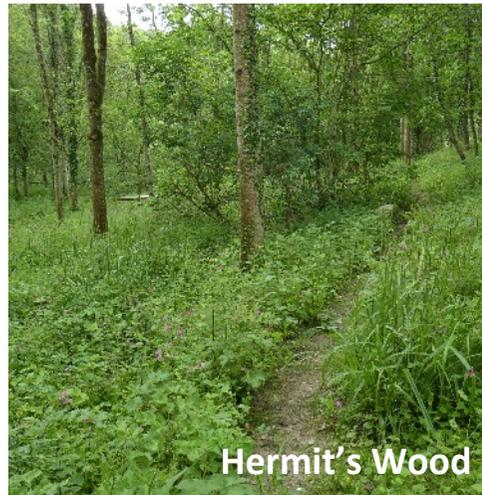
Go through the first gate on the right into one of the new fields we bought in 2016. Walk down the field with the hedge on the left.

You might see lambs! We put the ram with the ewes in spring so lambs are born in late summer. Sheep are kept off the wildflower meadows in spring and summer. When the grass has re-grown in the meadows the sheep and lambs can eat their fill.



Our Poll Dorset Lambs

10 Two options: Turn left into another field before the wood, walk with the wood on your right back to the Friary or turn right into the wood. Alternatively walk round the edge of the wood and over a stile into Hermit's Wood named after Br Ramon who lived there as a hermit during the 1980s. See the map to choose your path.



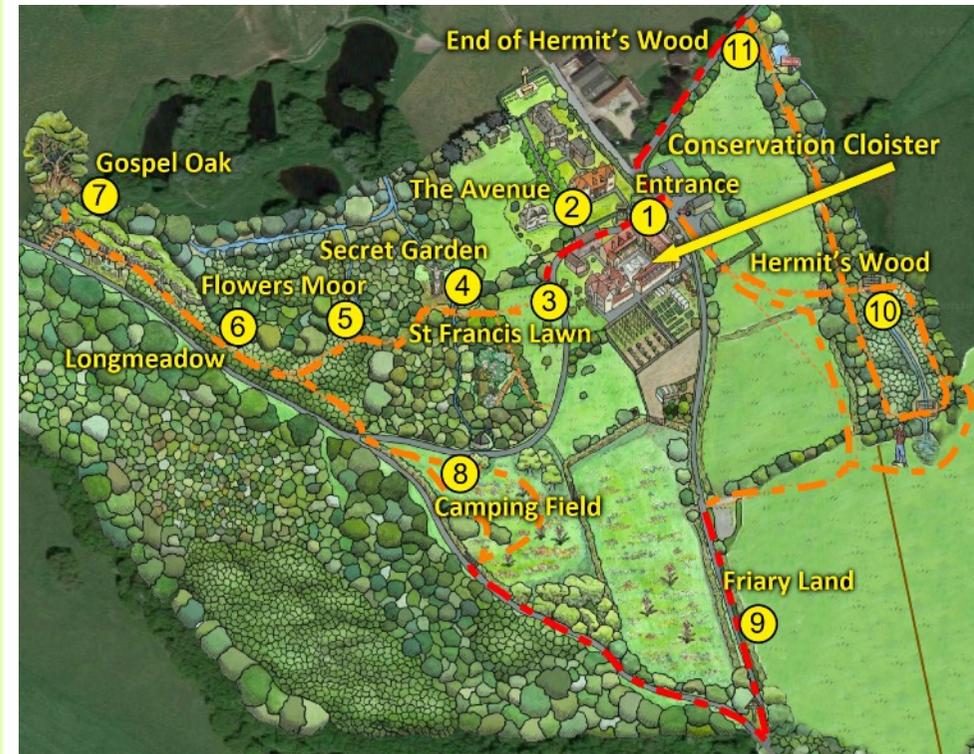
Hermit's Wood

11 Walk to the far End of Hermit's Wood to another information board and through a gap back onto the small road.

Turn left and walk back to the Friary.

Please return this trail to the Conservation Cloister when you've finished. Map your sightings and keep in touch with Hilfield's Facebook Conservation Group page, and website: www.hilfieldfriary.org.uk

Hilfield Friary Trails



This trail is partly paved and the length is about 1.5 miles.

Follow the numbers in yellow circles on the map that match the numbers in the text.

Key to terrain:

- Paved and accessible
- Off road

You might like to borrow a wildflower guide from the Conservation Cloister by the Chapel in the Courtyard.

Enjoy!



Summer Trail

- ① **At the entrance to the Friary**
Begin at the special 'German Oak' on the right.

Walk to the **Canticle Garden** on the left, follow its path and taste the growing herbs.

- ② **The Avenue** of lime trees down to your right has thousands of Friary bees feasting on the nectar.

- ③ Continue to **St Francis' Lawn**. There are many species of trees to see.

- ④ Cross the lane and walk down to the **Secret Garden** with its profusion of non-native plants. Cross the first bridge and then follow the path straight ahead (you can explore the rest of the Secret Garden at your leisure). Cross two more bridges over streams that form the River Wriggle.

- ⑤ You will reach an information board and oak tree with an image of Jesus nailed to the trunk that marks the start of **Flower's Moor**. There are native deciduous trees including alder and willow that love wet soil. We want to encourage this precious wildlife habitat.

You will see the jungle of living and fallen trees to the right. This is Stanley's Moor that we intentionally leave alone. Please don't walk through it. The rare Bechstein's bat has been recorded here.



Bechstein's bat



German Oak



Red Azalea in the Secret Garden



Flower's Moor

- ⑥ A big fir tree and another information board mark the start of **Longmeadow**. It was planted in 1995 with broad leaved deciduous trees. Follow the right hand fork and keep to the path.

- ⑦ When you reach the Friary boundary walk to the right for a few yards to see the **Gospel Oak**.

Retrace your steps to the fir tree and information board and take the other fork straight on through a more open glade. You will soon reach the lane at the end of this wood and another information board.

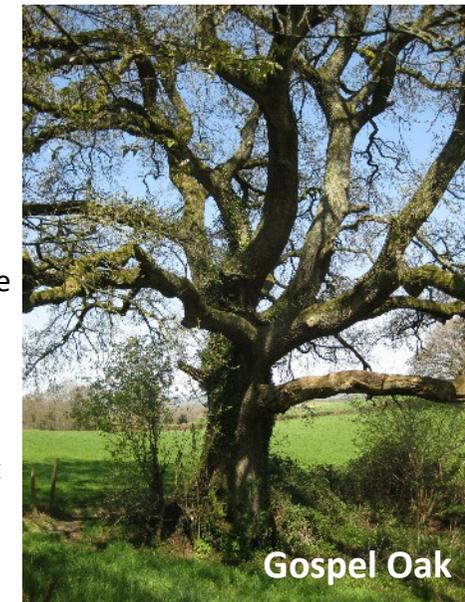
You are now at the top of our tarmacked lane on the left. The **Camping Field** is on the right of our lane. Which way you walk through the field in the summer depends on when you are visiting.

Until early July it's our special and renowned wildflower meadow. To protect the flowers we rope off the field but a special trail invites you to walk up the field to see the flowers close-up and information signs. Leave through the top gate on the right.

In mid July we cut our beautiful rich hay leaving some grass uncut for butterflies. Later in the month we welcome our Families Camp and Youth Camp. Now you walk up the right-hand edge of the field to the top gate.



Camping Field flowers



Gospel Oak



Common Orchid

You might prefer to walk up the public lane at the top of the camping field to avoid walking through the field.

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