



## Location

**Pewsey SN9 5JN**  
**Grid ref SU169611**

### Directions

**Access** – Not suitable for pushchairs and wheelchairs. Bench at top of field offers lovely views. Dogs on leads are welcome.

**If driving** – From Pewsey centre, take High Street (B3087) towards Milton Lilbourne and Burbage. Drive through Pewsey and turn left down Dursden Lane, just before a white cottage. Cross over railway bridge and reserve entrance is on left close to small parking area. Alternatively, Park at Pewsey Wharf next to The Waterfront pub and walk 15 minutes along towpath to right towards Wootton Rivers. Turn right up bank after canal bridge. Enter reserve through kissing gate.

**If using bus** – The X5 Swindon-Pewsey-Salisbury service stops in Pewsey's North Street. From North Street walk 20 minutes to reserve. Visit [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/parkingtransportandstreets](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/parkingtransportandstreets)

**If cycling** – Leave National Cycle Route 4 and follow signs for Pewsey. A local route runs through Pewsey and will take you to Dursden Lane. Visit [www.sustrans.org.uk](http://www.sustrans.org.uk)

**Nearby reserves** – Ham Hill, Peppercombe Wood.

## About Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

Our vision is to create a county rich in wildlife and help people live sustainable lifestyles that protect the environment for the benefit of everyone.

We have about 18,500 members, look after almost 40 nature reserves, are supported by hundreds of volunteers, and work with local communities, schools, businesses and public bodies to achieve our aims. To do all this we rely on the support of our members.

If you would like to join us, or to find out about how you can help the environment, please visit [www.wiltshirewildlife.org](http://www.wiltshirewildlife.org)

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Front cover: Yellow flag iris, Stephen Davis WWT

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

A sustainable future for wildlife and people

Nature reserves

# Jones's Mill

Vera Jeans Reserve



## Jones's Mill Vera Jeans Reserve

32.91 hectares

Jones's Mill is a beautiful and secluded wetland on the outskirts of the village of Pewsey; perfect for walkers and wildlife watchers.

It is a fen, made up of wet woodland (called alder carr), ponds and wet grassland. Its peaty soils are fed by natural springs and the Salisbury Avon flows through its centre.

In the wet areas it's best to stick to the boardwalks as water bubbles and shimmers at your feet. Paths through the rest of the reserve can be a little uneven. Those of you who are less mobile could make your way to the bench at the car park and enjoy the wonderful view of the Pewsey Downs.

In the past a watermill was believed to have been built on the site but more recently the land was grazed by cattle to supply milk. Watercress was also grown here for markets in London.

The central part of the reserve was given to us in 1980 by local resident Miss Vera Jeans.

### Wildlife

The reserve has ditches, ridges and furrows - evidence of its past use as water meadows. Water meadows were a popular method of encouraging an early crop of grass for grazing through controlled flooding.

It is home to wildlife that thrives in wet conditions - water voles, dragonflies, the elusive water shrew and birds such as kingfisher, snipe and heron.

**Great horsetail** grows in the alder carr; its bristles have a high silica content making it look like a bottle brush. Indeed its abrasive quality meant it was used for scrubbing and they were known as 'scouring rushes' or 'pot-scrubbing ferns'.

The alder carr leads to the **tussock sedge** fen. As these sedges grow their dying leaves build up around the base making little 'tussocks'.

We graze the wet grassland with black and white **belted Galloway cattle**. In spring and summer it bursts into colour with ragged robin, **yellow flag iris**, marsh marigold, the delicate lady's smock and water avens. In areas where the cattle have grazed the vegetation short, you can see the tall spikes of southern marsh and common spotted orchids. Rare plants include the bog bean, **bog pimpernel** and flea sedge.

If it wasn't grazed the fen would turn into woodland. By keeping vegetation in check the cattle help to maintain a rich diversity of plants.



Bog pimpernel, Stephen Davis WWT. Belted Galloway, Steve Day WWT. Horsetail, Owen Shaw WWT  
Tussock sedge, Steve Day WWT. River Avon walkway, Owain Shaw WWT

