SIMPSON'S FROMUS VALLEY at Main Road, Kelsale, Saxmundham

Set your satnav to IP17 2RG or (preferably) 52.2438°N 1.4903°E OS Grid Reference TM384664

For a map view, visit

https://map.what3words.com/handsets.paddlers.ants

The entrance is a small track on the western (left) side of the A12, just north of the northern end of the Saxmundham bypass.

From the North and Yoxford on the A12, it is dangerous to attempt to enter the track directly, so it is better to turn around at the B1121 (the exit for Saxmundham/Leiston), or a short way before that in the lay-by at the entrance to Park Gate Farm. Then follow the route from the South.

From the South on the A12, 500 metres after the B1121 junction at the north end of the Saxmundham bypass, you will see two white stone swans on the left. Immediately start to slow right down because, 100 metres or so further on, you will see a narrow track leading obliquely off to the left. This is the entrance to Simpson's Fromus Valley Reserve. Drive directly into the field.

A public footpath crossing the northern section of the Reserve provides a right of way through a small part of it, but does not give general access.

Trustees and volunteers will be on hand for guided tours, or you can take a self-guide leaflet and explore the 28 acres at leisure. There's something for everyone — medieval earthworks, bugs, butterflies, spiders, dragonflies, birdlife and, of course, wild flowers! Wear long trousers/sleeves and sturdy boots as the ground is uneven and may be muddy — and there are hungry insects hoping for warm humans to stumble across them! We look forward to welcoming you — but SORRY, NO DOGS.

In April we have the spring flora and early butterflies, in June the orchids and meadow grasses. August brings dragonflies to the late summer meadow. In the Autumn, harvest sloes, bullaces and blackberries are all there for the picking from the hedgerows for your larder — just leave some for the birds!

Broadly, our Open Days at Fromus Valley coincide with these highlights, around mid-April, mid-June and late September — but watch http://suffolkflora.org/open-days/upcoming/.