

Kings Dell



Dog rose

History

Kings Dell derives its name from the medieval farm of John King, which was first documented in 1294. The name persisted in the historical record, appearing in the 1837 Tithe Award, at which time the land was owned by Ann Pottrell, who was noted as the farmer of Kings. The original medieval farmstead remained in existence until the end of the First World War, when it was ultimately demolished.

Vegetation Mosaic and Grassland Diversity

The field currently comprises a mosaic of semi-natural grassland interspersed with areas of hawthorn scrub. The grassland is notably diverse, supporting a variety of plant species.



Cowslip

Amongst these are the common spotted orchid (*Dactylorhiza fuchsii*), common agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*), wild marjoram (*Origanum vulgare*), cowslip (*Primula veris*), meadow buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), and common knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*). This diversity indicates a relatively undisturbed and species-rich sward.



Buttercup

Spotted orchid

Indicators of Disturbance and Scrub Composition

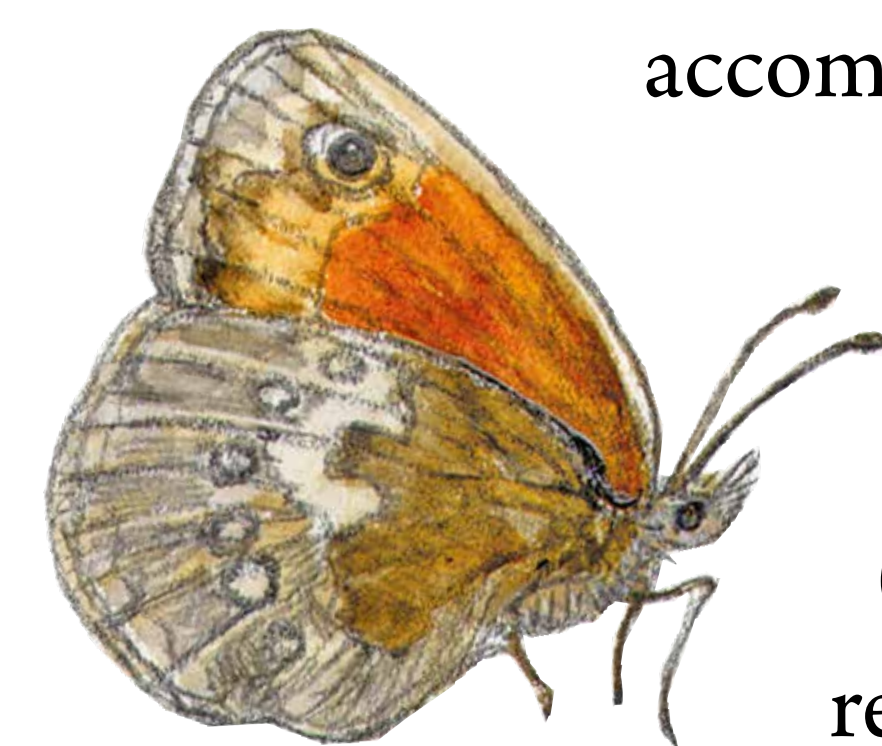
In addition to the grassland flora, there are stands of rosebay willowherb (*Chamerion angustifolium*) present. The occurrence of this species is indicative of a history of ground disturbance in parts of the field. The scrub component is predominantly made up of hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), though dog rose (*Rosa canina*), field maple (*Acer campestre*), and oak (*Quercus spp.*) are also present. The scrub is even-aged, suggesting it developed over a relatively short period without significant regeneration events.



Rosebay willowherb

Fauna and Grassland Structure

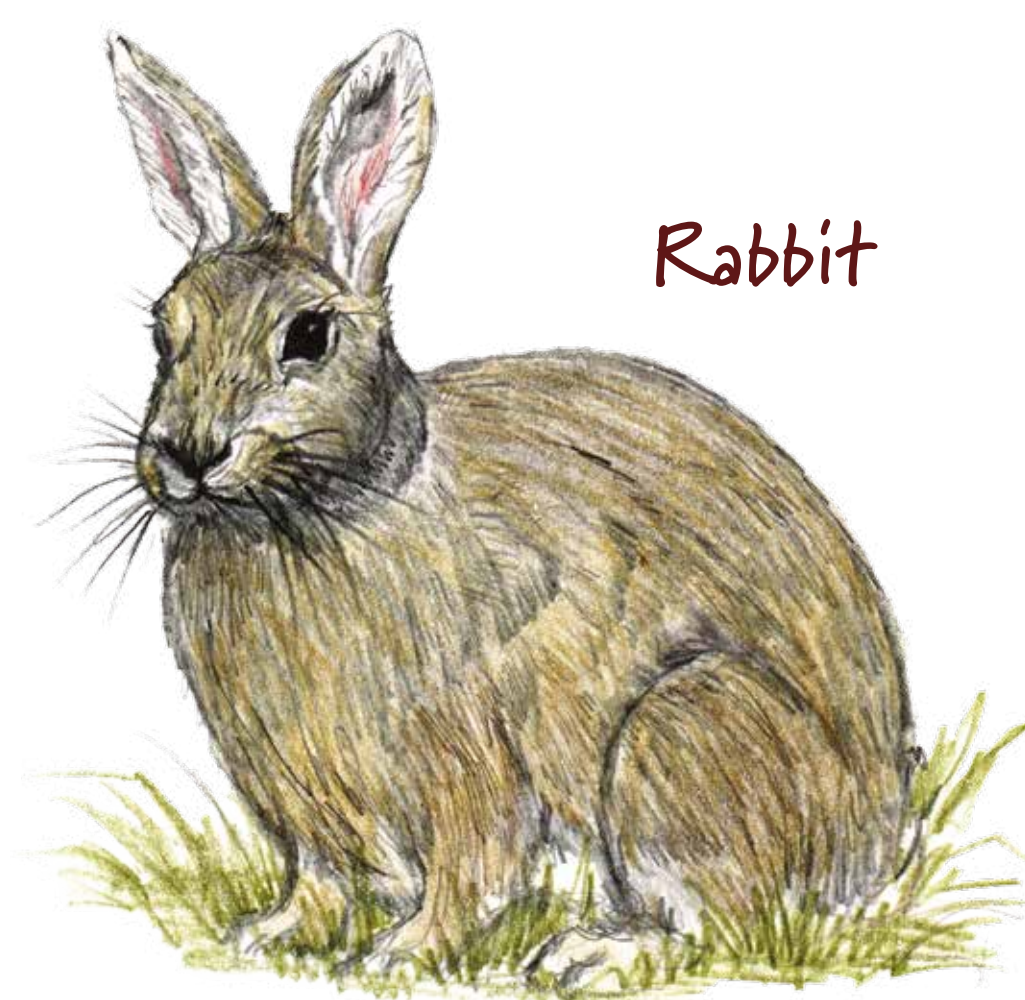
Numerous anthills are present throughout the field, accompanied by extensive evidence of rabbit grazing.



Small heath butterfly

The sward remains short in many areas as a result.

The small heath butterfly (*Coenonympha pamphilus*) is regularly observed on site, a species typically associated with well-drained grassland habitats where the grass is maintained at a low height.



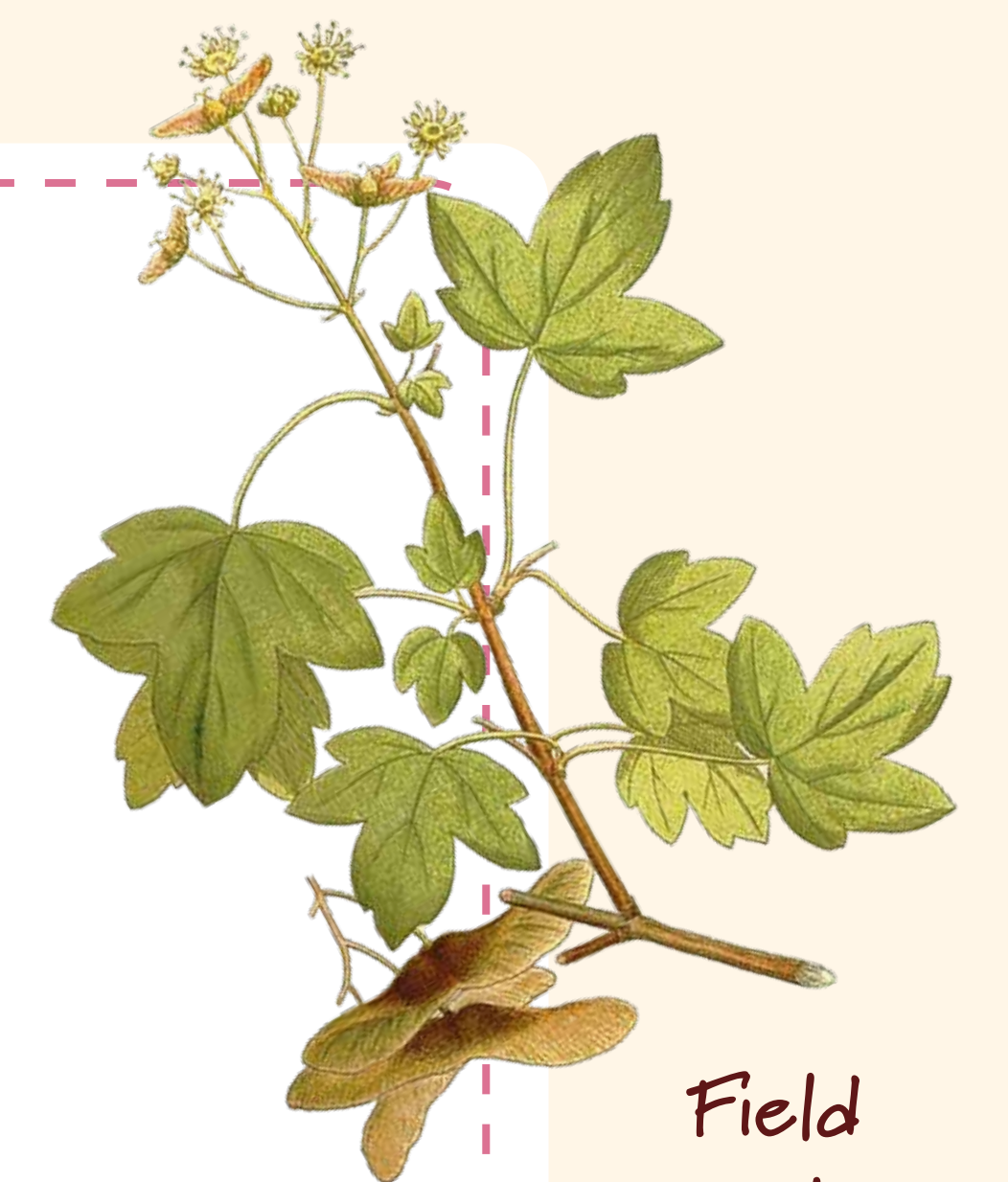
Rabbit

Field Boundaries and Hedgerows

The western and south-eastern boundaries of the field are defined by mature hedgerows, although there is a gap in the hedgerow along the south-eastern edge. The northern boundary is only partially hedged, with longer gaps that allow for open views into the surrounding countryside.



Knapweed



Field maple