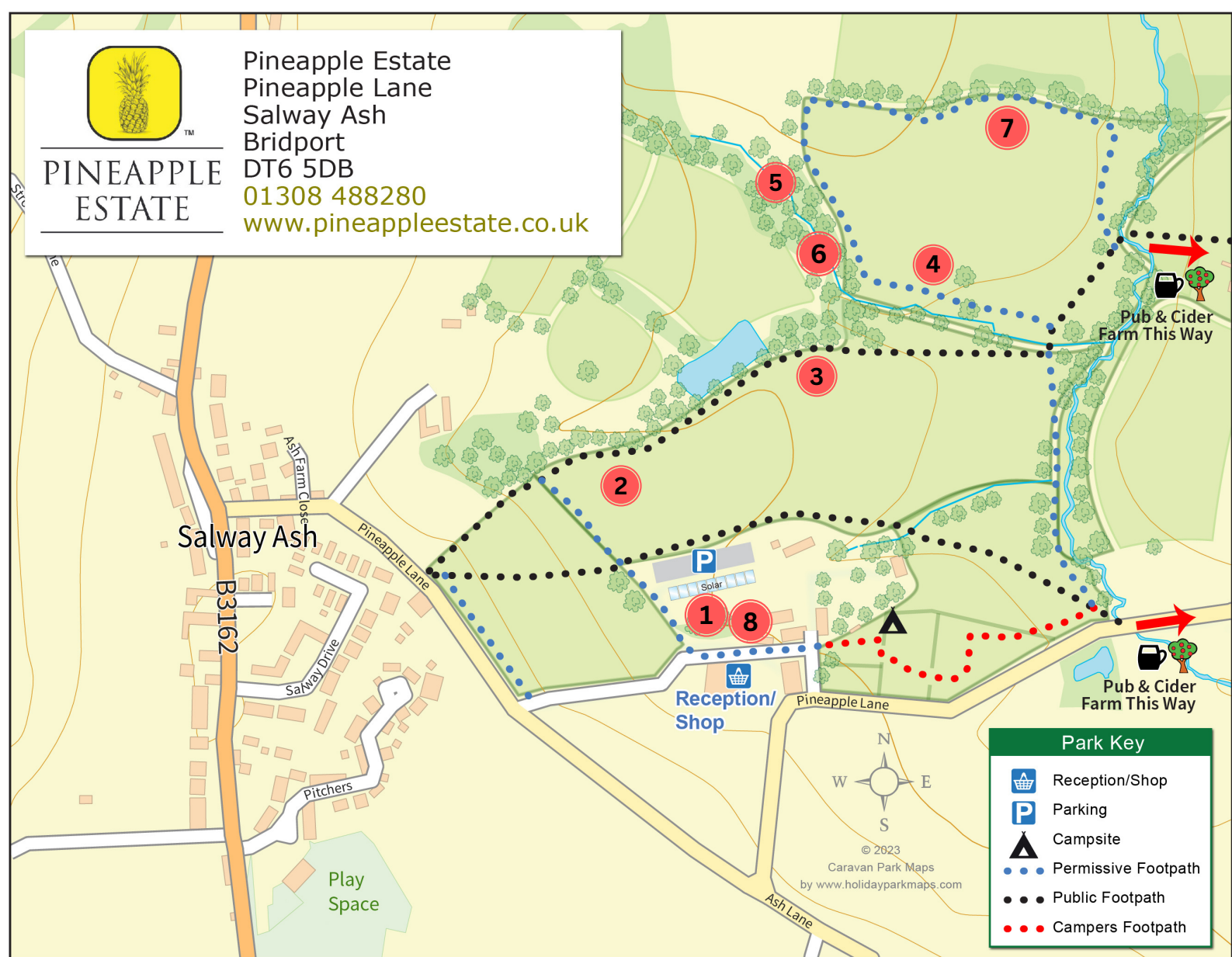


# FARM WALK

We hope you enjoy this short stroll around our farm. We've highlighted a few of our favorite spots and details on a couple of our current nature projects.

Please be aware, this is a livestock farm with cattle & sheep grazing. Follow the Countryside Code.



**1)** On your right, check out our Solar Panel field. It's named after the panels, which contribute about 30% of the energy for the estate. We make an effort to keep this field mostly untouched to let the Milk Thistles thrive in the summer. While we might not be big fans of thistles and nettles, we can't deny that bumblebees, butterflies, and caterpillars absolutely love them.



**2)** This field is part of our fungi research project. The aim of this project is to explore if a special type of fungi, called Mycorrhizal fungi (AM), can aid us in the sequestration of more atmospheric carbon within our soil. These little guys (AM) create webs of hyphae in the soil, connecting plants and other fungi together. Plants create sugars, via photosynthesis, which are fed to fungi in the format of carbon. In return, the fungi feed the plants with nutrients & water, retrieved from the soil and other plants.. We are currently in our third year of research.

3) This may seem like a simple grassy field at first glance, but take a closer look. You'll spot the Birdfoot Trefoil, Sheeps Burnet, Yarrow, and clover peeking through. There are over 14 different types of flowers and grasses in this area. We've intentionally included plenty of legumes to naturally fixate nitrogen, eliminating the need for synthetic nitrogen.



4) To your right are two oak trees. We've got a soft spot for these beautiful giants, and we want to see more dotted around the farm. For the past 3 years, we've been collecting and planting acorns. We planted 188 acorn & have about 60 samplings starting to grow. Oaks grow very slowly, so the saplings are still only small, but in the years to come, we hope they'll create shade for the cattle and nesting spots for birds.

5) Pop your head over the fence and you'll see trees and shrubs growing along the steep bank, overhanging the small stream running along the bottom. Dorset Wildlife Trust has marked this as an area of importance due to the rich variety of wildlife it supports. They undertake botanical surveys and advise how to manage the land, to best benefit nature. Depending on the time of year, this broadleaved woodland blooms in bluebell, wood anemone, wood-sorrel, with ash, oak and some elder in the wetter areas.



6) }  
7) }  
8) }  
These three spots have lovely bug houses, made on one of our charity children activity trips. Spot 6 & 7 are very hidden, but keep a look out!

6) Bubble bee houses, for hibernating queen bees. A shady spot is needed, to avoid her waking up on a warm winters day, before pollen is available to eat.

7) These little houses are for solitary bees, who need a south facing home that keeps them nice and warm.

8) Opposite the shop, you'll find houses made from recycled materials and bat boxes, up above the shop & reception.



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