

Welcome to Hollybed Farm Meadows



Worcestershire



Cowslip

We are restoring these fields to wildflower-rich lowland hay meadows; this is a long process that can take 25 years.

The Far Starling Bank Site of Special Scientific Interest is the botanic heart of the reserve and seed from this meadow is being used to enrich the surrounding fields. In 2013 Far Starling Bank was designated as Worcestershire's Coronation Meadow in a project developed by HRH Prince Charles to celebrate and create wildflower-rich meadows across the UK, marking the 60th anniversary of the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.



Seasonal Highlights

SPRING:
primrose, cowslip, chiffchaff
Orange tips lay their eggs on lady's smock



SUMMER:
southern marsh orchid, meadow brown, marbled white
Glow worms are found in rough grass



AUTUMN: wild service tree
Grasslands make great hunting grounds for *barn owls*



WINTER: fieldfare, redwing
Green woodpeckers are more visible in winter



Did you know...?

It's not just meadows. There are diverse and mature hedgerows as well as an old perry pear orchard. The latter may date from Victorian times and probably included varieties such as Longdon white and butt. We have restocked the orchard with these and other local varieties.



Marbled white butterfly

I-spy...

The reserve looks best in summer when it's alive with plants of traditional hay meadows and the butterflies, bees and other wildlife they support. Look for crested dog's-tail, common knapweed, meadow vetchling, sweet vernal grass, yellow rattle, goldilocks buttercup, burnet saxifrage and wild onion. More locally uncommon species include adder's-tongue fern, pepper saxifrage, southern marsh orchid and autumn ladies tresses.

Please remember...

Nature reserves are special places for the conservation of our wildlife. For everyone to enjoy this reserve please respect the following:

- Keep to footpaths
- Keep your dogs on a lead when livestock are in the fields
- Do not pick any of the flowers

This reserve is one of over 70 nature reserves that we own or manage. They form part of our vision for a Living Landscape for Worcestershire. By working with other landowners, managers and communities we aim to **restore**, **recreate** and **reconnect** fragmented natural habitats to achieve a landscape where wildlife can flourish and people can lead healthier and happier lives.

You can help protect wildlife by:

- Becoming a member
- Making a donation
- Volunteering to help
- Encouraging wildlife at home or work

We are part of a national network of The Wildlife Trusts, protecting wildlife across the UK.

The purchase of this reserve has been assisted by the Esmée Fairburn Foundation, the Heritage Lottery Fund, members of the Trust and the general public.

