

Welcome to The Flashes

at The Christopher Cadbury Wetland Reserve, Upton Warren

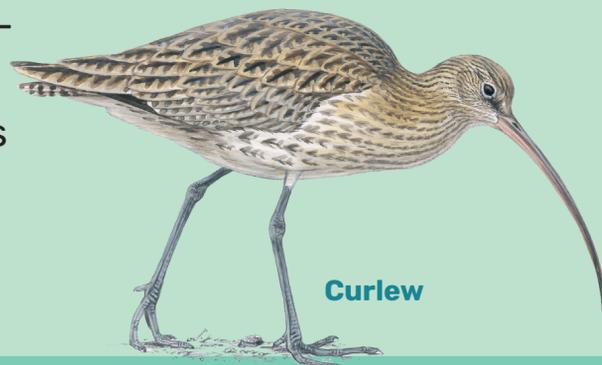


Worcestershire
Wildlife Trust

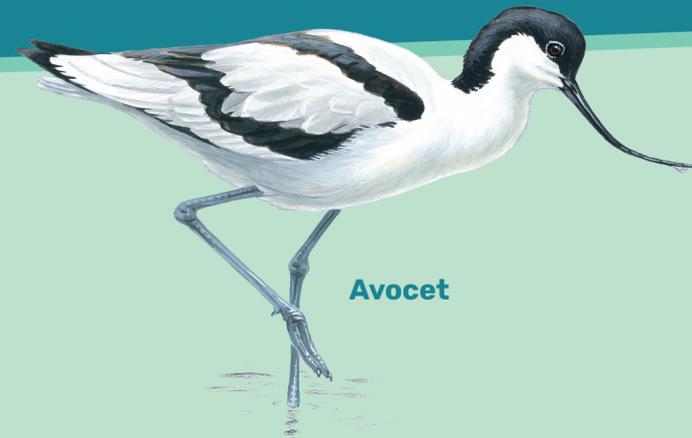
Historic extraction of brine for the salt trade in nearby Droitwich has caused subsidence and flooding. Whilst the vegetation between here and The Flashes pools may appear typical of Worcestershire, when you reach the pools you'll realise that things are very different indeed.

The pools receive brine from underground seepage. In places, the high salt levels prevent the growth of vegetation but elsewhere, salt-tolerant or salt-dependent plants form an inland saltmarsh, a rare and unusual inland occurrence.

The areas of bare ground amongst the pools are used by birds for feeding and roosting. There's something different to see every month with breeding birds in spring and summer and many species of birds during migration periods. Large flocks of birds attract predators – peregrine falcons are regular visitors and breed nearby.



Curlew



Avocet

Did you know...?

In 2003, Upton Warren recorded the UK's first inland breeding avocets and they've remained regular spring and summer visitors ever since.

Take a closer look

As you walk to the hides at The Flashes, keep a look out for some of our smaller delights. The brook is home to banded demoiselles and southern hawker dragonflies whilst the flowers along the path feed marbled white butterflies and buff-tailed bumblebees.

Check the hedges and trees for small birds, like long-tailed tits and chiffchaffs, gleaning insects from the leaves.



Lapwing

Seasonal highlights

SPRING

Cuckoo, **dunlin**, reed warbler, ruff, large red damselfly



© Wendy Carter

SUMMER

Avocet, lapwing, **little ringed plover**, grass snake, banded demoiselle



© Richard Steel 2020/16/10/17

AUTUMN

Green sandpiper, black-tailed godwit, common sandpiper



© Pete Walkden

WINTER

reed bunting, water rail, fieldfare, redwing, curlew



© Arabella James

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