

Welcome to Hardwick Green Meadows



Worcestershire
Wildlife Trust

Floodplain meadows like these are one of Britain's rarest habitats; only about 3,500 acres remain (about the area of the Malvern Hills). Internationally important, the connection of these fields to other sites in the area also makes them an important link in a local network of corridors for wildlife.

The meadows are rich in traditional floodplain meadow plants such as great burnet, pepper saxifrage and corky-fruited dropwort. The fields and hedgerows support insects from bees to butterflies; the insects sustain birds like blackcap and whitethroat as well as bats.

Thanks to the generosity of our members, the Heritage Lottery Fund, Severn Waste Services via the Landfill Communities Fund, The Banister Trust, gifts left in Wills and awards from charitable trusts for helping us to save these meadows for the future.

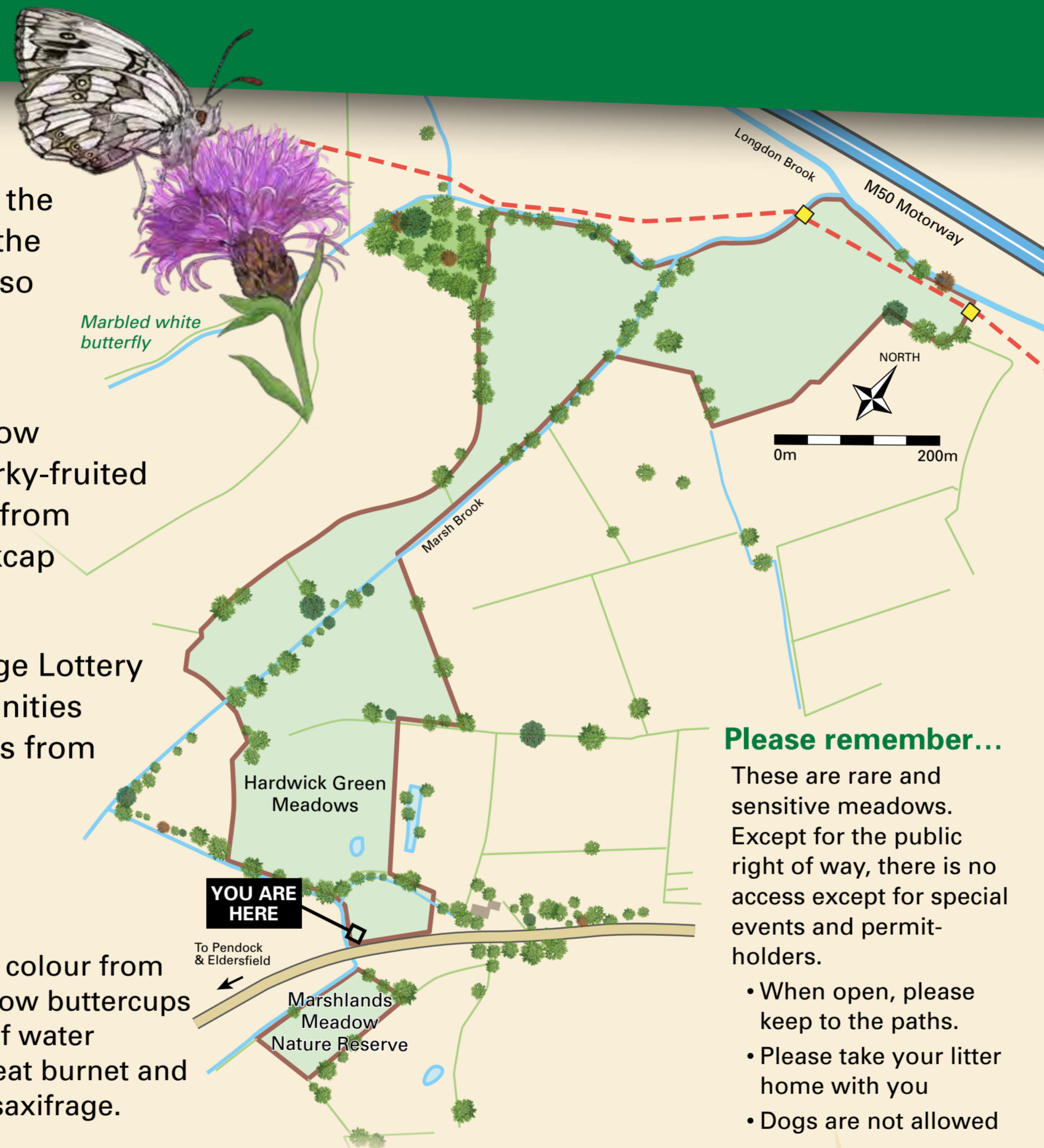


Illustrations by Shelly Perkins • www.shellyperkins.co.uk

I-spy...

The meadows are awash with colour from mid-May to mid-July. The yellow buttercups are followed by white heads of water dropwort, the deep reds of great burnet and the delicate lemon of pepper saxifrage.

Fluttering above the flowers are chequerboard marbled whites and bright small copper butterflies. Brown hares keep low amongst the grasses, skylarks trill their songs on high and, as dusk falls, barn owls hunt their prey. Hares can be seen throughout the year and in the depths of winter you should be able to spot fine veteran oak trees throughout the site.



Please remember...

These are rare and sensitive meadows. Except for the public right of way, there is no access except for special events and permit-holders.

- When open, please keep to the paths.
- Please take your litter home with you
- Dogs are not allowed

Did you know...?

Floodplain meadows like these used to be the most prized land; the natural fertility resulted in good crops of hay to feed livestock. They were so valuable that they were managed communally to ensure that everyone had their share – or 'dole' – of hay.

Seasonal Highlights

SPRING:

Brown hare, otter, common blue butterfly, **common frog**



SUMMER:

Great burnet, corky-fruited water dropwort, pepper saxifrage, marbled white, spotted flycatcher



AUTUMN: Badger, **redstart**, southern hawkler



WINTER: Barn owl, brown hare, little egret



*This is one of over 75 nature reserves that we own or manage, forming part of our vision of a **Living Landscape**. We're working towards a Worcestershire that is **bigger, better and more connected** for wildlife to thrive in and for people to lead happier and healthier lives. Connected by a series of brooks, Hardwick Green Meadows is close to our Hill Court Farm and Marshlands Meadow nature reserves as well as the privately-owned Burley Dene SSSI, together forming part of the historic Longdon and Eldersfield Marsh complex.*

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 Banister Trust,
Rowlands Charitable Trust,
Alan Evans Memorial Fund,
Tim Carter and
Anne Spurgeon