

Wildflower Meadow Challenge!



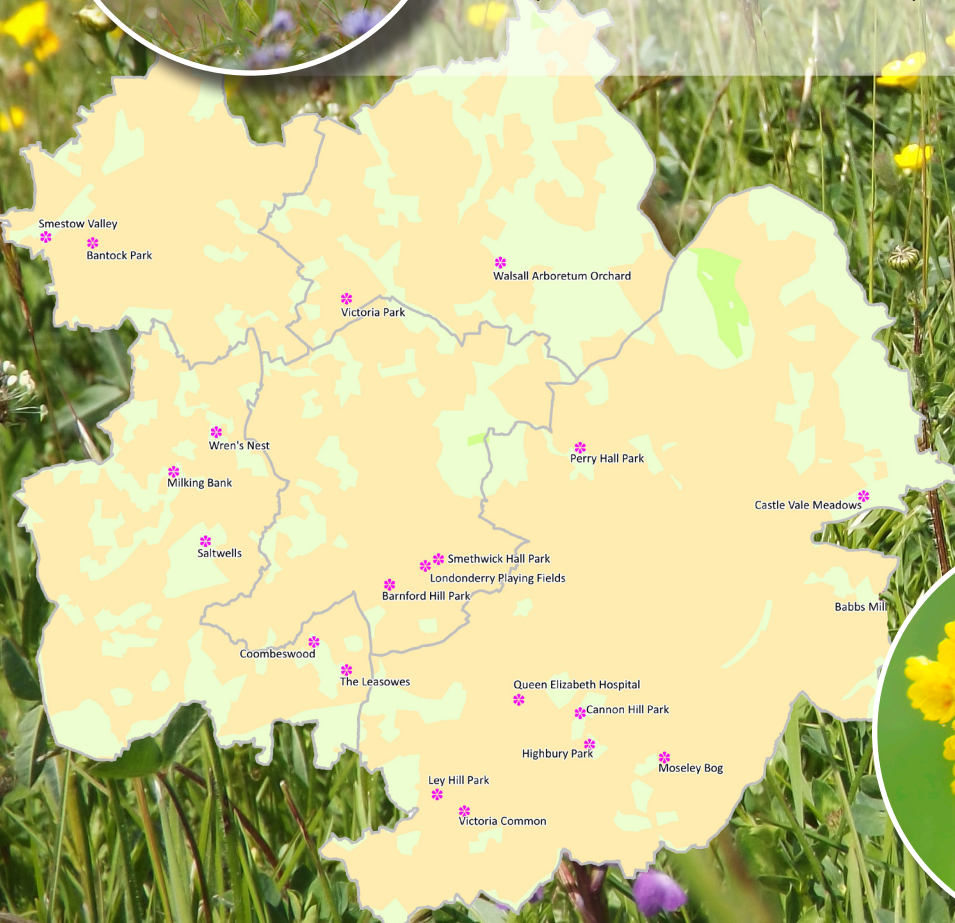
Green-winged orchid

The three-lobed, pink or purple flowers of the Green-winged Orchid cluster around a single spike. The 'hood' is lined with green veins. The leaves are narrow and pointed, and do not have spots.



Common-spotted orchid

Green leaves with many purple, oval spots. They form a rosette at ground level before the flower spike appears; narrower leaves sheath the stem. The flowers range from white and pale pink, through to purple, but have distinctive darker pink spots and stripes on their three-lobed lips. The flowers are densely packed in short, cone-shaped clusters.



Yellow rattle

Yellow-rattle has yellow, tube-like flowers protruding from an inflated, green calyx, which appear May to September. It has serrated leaves with heavy, dark veins, which sprout opposite each other all the way up the stem. Its stems have black spots.



Cowslip

The Cowslip displays a rosette of green, crinkly, tongue-like leaves, low to the ground. Its tube-like, egg-yolk-yellow flowers are clustered together at the ends of its upright, green stems.

So that your sighting can be properly recorded there are just 4 things we need to know - What, Where, When & Who - and if you can send us a photo too that would be even better!

- 1) **WHAT** was seen - the species name
- 2) **WHERE** it was seen - try to provide as much detail as possible including the name of the site and, especially if it's a large (or long!) site e.g. a canal, where about on the site it was. If you saw it in your garden then just a postcode is fine. Ordnance Survey grid references are also really useful. A great website for finding out a grid reference for a location is: <http://gridreferencefinder.com/>
- 3) **WHEN** it was seen: the date the record was made, ideally in dd/mm/yyyy format, but less precise dates are also fine e.g. November 2017, Summer 2015 etc.
- 4) **WHO** saw it - The name of the person(s) who saw it. If anyone else helped you to identify it, please also let us know their name too.

Then simply tweet your spot to @EcoRecording or email enquiries@EcoRecord.org.uk

97% of the wildflower meadows we had in the 1930s have disappeared which is a big problem for our beautiful bees as a foraging bumblebee with a full stomach is only ever 40 minutes from starvation! Bees provide us with every third mouthful of food we eat – without them we wouldn't be able to grow many of our favourite foods including tomatoes, blueberries, strawberries and green beans.

Our wildflower meadows provide a wild haven for hundreds of different species, this biodiversity is increasingly important to reverse wildlife decline.

Registered Charity no. 513615
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Image credits: Castle Vale Meadow in Bloom: Andy Slater. Green-winged orchid: Mark Hamblin/2020VISION. Common spotted orchid: Philip Precey. Yellow rattle: Les Binns. Cowslip: Guy Edwardes/2020VISION



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Find out more by visiting our website
www.bbcwildlife.org.uk