

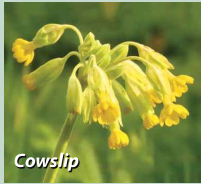
# The Pittville Meadow Habitat

## Wildflowers

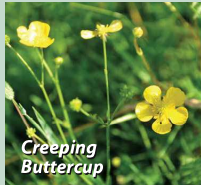
All of these can be found here during Spring and Summer. How many can you identify?



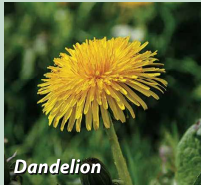
Common Knapweed



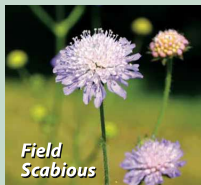
Cowslip



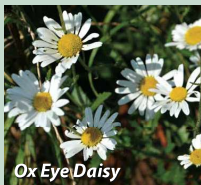
Creeping Buttercup



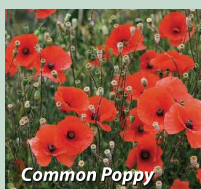
Dandelion



Field Scabious



Ox Eye Daisy



Common Poppy



Teasel



Viper's Bugloss



White Clover



Wild Carrot



Yellow Rattle

Pittville Park is home to a wide variety of animal and plant life. This guide will help you to identify some of the most common plants and animals which you can see around you.



## Pittville Meadow Management Strategy

The Meadows have been created to increase the biodiversity within Pittville Park, and enhance its beauty. Wildflowers attract a variety of wildlife, producing nectar and pollen for insects and leaves for herbivores including caterpillars.

The meadow habitat also provides a corridor of a native mix of species on either side of Tommy Taylors Lane, and a source of food and shelter for a wide range of wildlife species.

The seed mix was collected locally from meadow sites on Leckhampton Hill, and includes both annual and biennial species. The project involved working with a number of different organisations such as Friends of Pittville, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and students from the University of Gloucestershire.

The meadow areas are cut each autumn after the flowers have set seed, and the surplus material is removed.

The creation of the Pittville Park meadow area provides a haven for many different species of wildlife, including butterflies, pollinating insects such as hoverflies and bumble bees and small birds that feed on seeds and the small insects.

Did you know that a massive 97% (3 million hectares) of our wildflower-rich grassland has been lost in the UK since 1945.

Pollinators play a vital role in the production of various foods, beverages, fibres, spices and medicines that we as humans depend upon. The commercial production of crops such as apples, blueberries, and potatoes are reliant upon the activity of pollinators. A continual decrease in them will soon result in a significant impact on everyday life.



Seeding



Tractor mowing

## Butterflies



### BRIMSTONE

The brimstone has a wingspan of 5 to 6cms and each wing has a pointed tip. The male is intensely lemon yellow but the female is a yellowish white, with a small orange dot at the middle of each wing. Common in forests but also in areas of scrub, parks and gardens.



### GATEKEEPER

The gatekeeper, also known as the 'hedge brown', is a medium-sized, brown butterfly that is on the wing in July and August. It is a butterfly of grassland, hedgerows and woodland edges and can be seen feeding on wild marjoram, bramble and ragworts. It avoids areas of short, open grassland.



### COMMON BLUE

The common blue is a small blue butterfly that flies throughout the summer between April and October. The most widespread of the blue butterflies, it is found in a variety of habitats, including heathland, woodland rides, grassy meadows, parks, large gardens and waste ground.



### MARBLED WHITE

The marbled white is a distinctive, medium-sized, white butterfly, with black-checked markings. Adults are on the wing in the summer, from June to August. Strong colonies can be found on warm, species-rich chalk and limestone grasslands, but woodland rides, railways cuttings and road verges are also frequented.

## Birds



### GOLDFINCH

The goldfinch is a small, colourful finch that is gingerly-brown above and pale below, with black-and-yellow wings, a black crown, white cheeks and a bright red face. It eats small seeds, especially from ragwort, dandelions and teasels – their long, pointed bills help them to extract the seeds, as well as invertebrates.



### LONG TAILED TIT

The long-tailed tit is a tiny bird of hedgerows, woodland, parks and gardens – they have a long black-and-white tail that is longer than their body. They have a black, white and pink back, a white head with a wide, black eyestripe, and a pale pink belly. They are active feeders, hunting out insects and spiders.



### WREN

One of our smallest and most common birds, it is a round brown bird with a short and often cocked tail. Wrens search in the undergrowth for insects and spiders, the long bill enabling them to search in crevices.



### CHAFFINCH

The chaffinch is a very common, sparrow-sized finch of gardens, woodland, and parks. They feed on seeds and insects, and have a loud, pleasant song. The male chaffinch is one of the most colourful birds with a blue-grey crown, brown back and pink breast. Females are brown, but are less streaky than female house sparrows, and have white shoulder patches and wingbars.



### ROBIN

The robin is one of the most familiar birds of the UK, regularly visiting gardens, but are also common in parks, scrub and woodland. The robin really is unmistakable: brown above, with a white belly and a famously red breast. They sing from prominent perches right through the winter, when both males and females hold territories; indeed, they are fiercely territorial, driving off intruders and even fighting.

## Insects



### BUMBLE BEE

There are a number of different bumble bee species, each of a relatively large size, that can be found in a variety of habitats from woodlands to gardens. They have a long tongue that allows them to feed from long, tubular flowers, such as foxglove and honeysuckle. They will also visit red clover, vetches and nettles for nectar and pollen. They nest underground in colonies of up to 300 workers, often using the old nests of small mammals.



### HONEY BEE

Probably the best-known bee, the honey bee's honey has been used by humans for thousands of years. In the wild they live in wooded areas in large lives made of wax honeycombs. The queen lays eggs whilst the workers care for the young, almost like a giant bee nursery! Every year a new queen will either take the place of her mother, or she will leave to start a colony of her own.



### SOLITARY BEE

Most people are familiar with honey bees and bumble bees, but look closely and there are smaller furry bees moving from flower to flower. In Britain we have around 270 species of bee, just under 250 of which are solitary bees. These bees can be amazingly effective pollinators and as the name suggests tend not to live in colonies like bumble bees and honey bees.



### GRASSHOPPER

The meadow grasshopper is a resident of mainly damp, unimproved pastures and meadows. Grasshoppers go through a series of moults, from wingless nymphs to winged adults, shedding their exoskeletons as they grow. Nymphs are present from April onwards, turning into adults in June who feed on plants and grass.

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