

The Natural History of Blagdon's Meadow

From mud to wildlife haven

Over Blagdon's Meadow was part of the River Pym. It was created from deposits dredged from the estuary of the Pym, along with other materials which were transported to the site. As nature has moved in, the grassland has become a mini-paradise for plants, insects and people.

To keep the Meadow the way it is, low soil nutrients must be kept low.

- by a late summer mowing with removal of the cuttings
- by a late autumn mowing with removal of the cuttings
- by removal of cuttings when paths are cut to discourage trampling on sensitive areas.

With your help to do these things we can preserve and encourage the diverse grassland habitat. Without our care Blagdon's Meadow will change again. It will become overgrown with a few dominant plants and the safety of species, which depend upon each other, will be lost for ever.

Goldfinch
(*Carduelis carduelis*)

Shelduck
(*Tadorna tadorna*)

Curling
(*Numenius arquata*)

Canada Goose
(*Branta canadensis*)

Common
(*Phalacrocorax carbo*)

Pulls from Prince Rock Primary School

Oystercatcher
(*Haematopus ostralegus*)

Grey Heron
(*Ardea cinerea*)

Little Egret
(*Egretta garzetta*)

Meadow Brown
(*Maniola phoeniceus*)

Yellow-cattle
(*Phaenocarpa temo*)

Spot Ladybird
(*Adonis vernalis*)

Common Blue
By Matthew Webb

Green Shielding
(*Parmentia praena*)

Goldfinch
By Harrison Smith

Common Blue
(*Polyommatus icarus*)

Bee Orchid
(*Ophrys sphegodes*)

Scarlet Pimpernel
(*Scilla maritima*)

Meadow Grasshopper
(*Chorthippus parallelus*)

Early Purple
Orchid
(*Ophrys sphegodes*)

Clouded Yellow
(*Colias croceus*)

Early Purple
Orchid
By Katherine Coates

Grey Heron
By Charlotte Coates

Hidden Life of the Pym
School have explored some of the colourful wildlife you may see as you wander along the pathways at Blagdon's Meadow.

Goldfinch
You may have the head twinking calls of a goldfinch flock before you see it. The birds like reeds, bushes and areas with tall grass, where they feed on the seed heads in winter and catch insects in summer. Goldfinches are very special because they are the only bird to be able to see in the dark.

Common Blue Butterfly
Common Blue butterfly is less common than it used to be because of the lack of suitable grassland for breeding. However, it is very important to the health of the meadow. You won't see common blues in dark and they are very common in the meadow.

Early Purple Orchid
This orchid usually grows here to a height of 10-20 centimetres and only grows where there is a neutral soil, which is not too dry. It has a long, narrow leaf and a single flower. It is very important to the health of the meadow. You won't see common blues in dark and they are very common in the meadow.

How does your grass to the Pym look?
You may be surprised what you can see there! How does your grass to the Pym look? You may be surprised what you can see there!

