

# Manor Woods Valley – the wildflower meadows

There are four wildflower meadows in Manor Woods Valley; a large one and three small ones. A hay crop is taken off the large meadow every year and the smaller meadows are managed by hand. Each of the areas is important for different reasons.

A wide variety of plants and insects abound on these areas, which are important for the preservation of biodiversity in South Bristol.

## The Wildflower Meadow



The largest area is known as The Wildflower Meadow. It has its origin, not in agriculture, but as playing fields in the 1950's, a landfill site in the 1960's, then as a receptor site for arisings from the excavation of the interceptor tunnel in the 1970's. The latter two factors changed the landform of the meadow, creating the mounded profile that we see today.

Wildflowers arrived through natural processes. Since the mid 2000's the area has been managed as a hay meadow, with a hay crop being taken each summer. This has the effect of preventing the establishment of scrub and removing nutrients, which encourages wildflowers and discourages grass.



The Wildflower Meadow supports, amongst many other plant species, Bee

and Common-Spotted Orchids, several species of vetches, Ox-eye Daisies, Pale Flax and the locally uncommon Corky-fruited Water Dropwort. The wide variety of flowering plants encourages a range of insects such as grasshoppers, butterflies and day-flying moths.



## The Orchard Triangle



The Orchard Triangle is a relatively small meadow that has a wide range of plant species, including Bee and Pyramidal Orchids, and vetches. These support many insect species, and especially Marbled White Butterflies.

The main feature of this area is its large Slow-worm population. It was already home to a good population of Slow-worms before

more were added in 2017, from a local development site. The habitat was improved by cutting back Bramble and Blackthorn in order to encourage more wildlife. These improvements are on-going and proving increasingly good for Slow-worms as well as wildflowers and insects.



## The Rabbit Field



Named for the large number of Rabbits that lived there during the 1990's, the Rabbit Field lost its Rabbits when the meadow became densely overgrown with Brambles. In order to re-establish the meadow so that Slow-worms and other wildlife and flowers can thrive, clearance of the Brambles using hand tools and mowers began in the late 2010's.

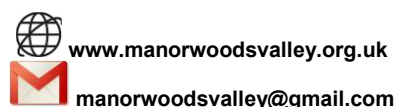
## Valley Heights Meadow

Valley Heights Meadow used to be known as an area with an interesting flora; however lack of management led to its decline in the late 2010's. A single autumn cut with a mower followed by raking away the cut grass and scattering wildflower seed and planting plug-plants has created a meadow, with a range of colourful arable 'weeds', including Field Poppies, Corn Marigolds and Cornflowers.



## Manor Woods Valley's importance

Bristol declared a Climate Emergency in November 2018 and an ecological emergency in February 2019, and health and equality issues have come to the fore during 2020. Manor Woods Valley Group is working to ensure that Manor Woods Valley contributes to solutions to these issues.



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