



Brown hare

Welcome to Hill Court Farm and the Blacklands The Andrew Fraser Reserve



Worcestershire

Longdon Marsh was one of Worcestershire's last wildernesses where swallowtail butterflies, bitterns and otters were commonplace. However, successive drainage and agricultural improvement left only fragments of marshland habitats and much wetland-loving wildlife has disappeared.

In 2004 work began to re-create wetlands in the low-lying northern fields for lapwing, otters and wildfowl. The southern ground features hay meadows rich in mature hedgerows and farmland birds.

Veteran oaks, many several hundred years old, and old pollarded willows are now managed to ensure they reach maximum maturity. New generations are planted to ensure continuity.

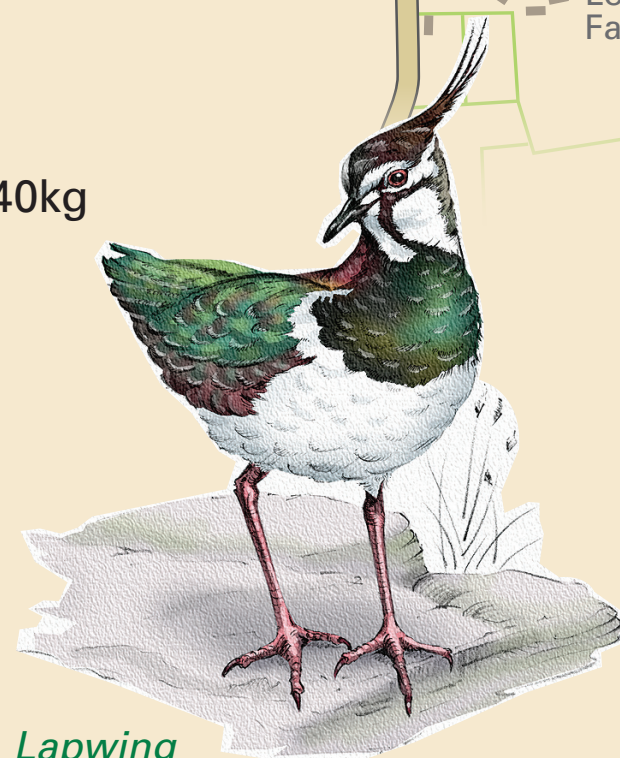
Purchased in 2001, the 120 hectare reserve is named in honour of our first staff member, Andrew Fraser (1950-2003).

Did you know...?

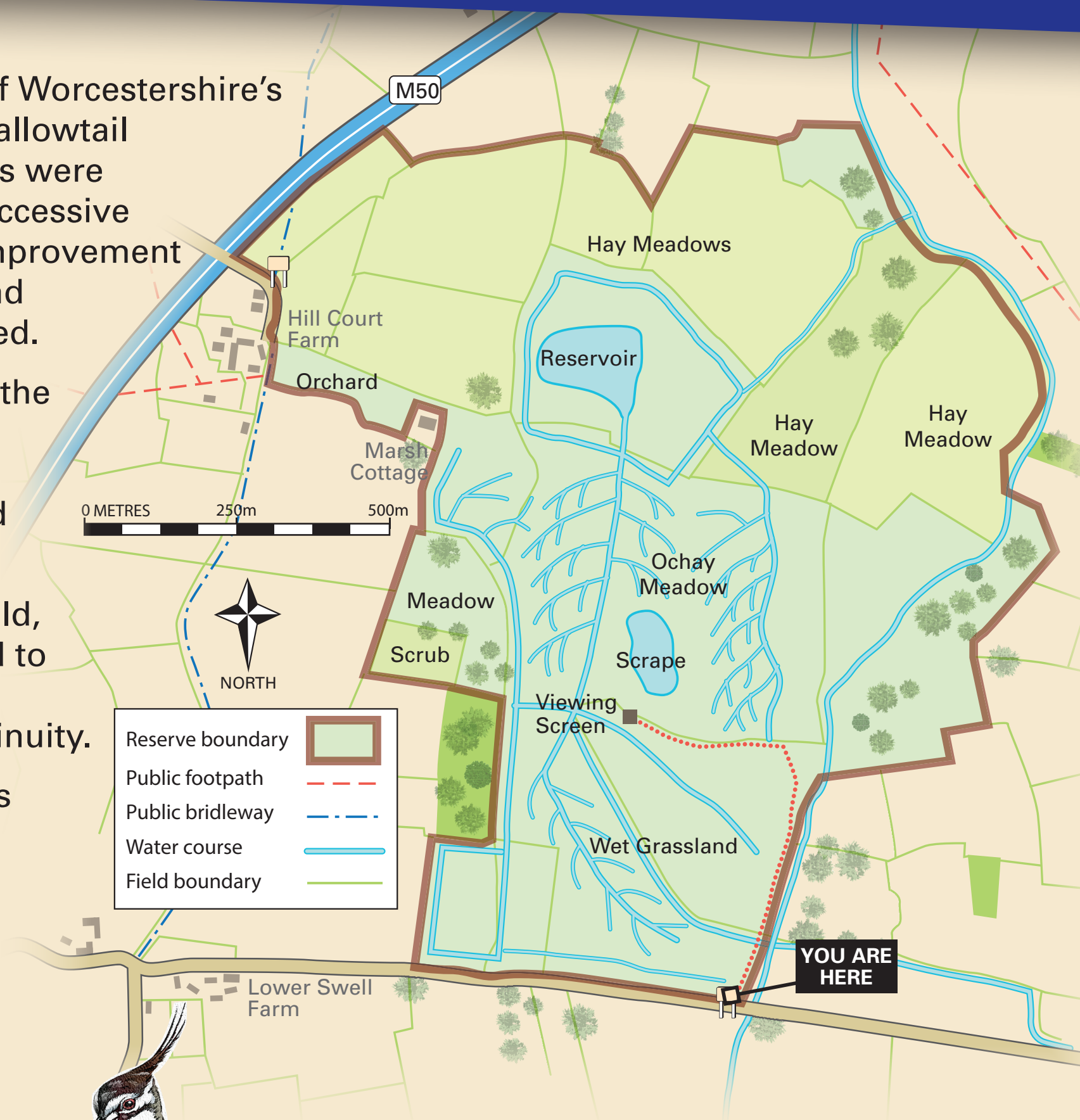
From counts carried out by our volunteers we estimate that each summer around 1,136,500 grasshoppers and crickets live in just one of these fields. That's a weighty 340kg of orthoptera for a 22 hectare field!

I-spy...

In spring look for brown hares. In summer look for lapwing around the scrapes and listen for the distinctive call of skylarks and yellowhammers. The hay meadows and hedgerows are a good place to look for butterflies.



Lapwing



Please remember...

This nature reserve is a special place for the conservation of our wildlife. For everyone to enjoy the reserve please respect the following:

- There is permissive pedestrian access from Marsh Road along the brook to viewing screens between the main wetland fields. To avoid disturbing nesting birds please stay on this path.
- Dogs are not allowed anywhere on the nature reserve.
- During flooding the path can be under water and very slippery. If in doubt, please turn back.

Seasonal highlights

SPRING:

brown hare, lapwing, redshank
Keep a look out for wetland specialists, **reed buntings**



SUMMER:

curlew, reed bunting, marbled white, meadowsweet



Purple hairstreak are usually only spotted in the tops of our veteran oak trees



AUTUMN:

green sandpiper, lapwing, snipe
Great burnet was once very common in wet grasslands



WINTER:

wigeon, peregrine, woodcock

During floods, flocks of **teal** descend on the meadows

This is one of 70+ nature reserves that we own or manage. They're part of our vision for a Living Landscape. We work with other landowners, managers and communities to restore, recreate and reconnect fragmented natural habitats to achieve a landscape where wildlife can flourish and people can lead happier and healthier lives.

You can help protect wildlife by:

- Becoming a member
- Making a donation
- Volunteering to help

We are part of The Wildlife Trusts, protecting wildlife across the UK.

