



Reed bunting

Welcome to Ipsley Alders Nature Reserve



Worcestershire

Ipsley Alders is a fen marsh – a threatened habitat within the UK. The waterlogged conditions are created by spring waters saturating the soil; the springs are occasionally visible. Fen peat (characteristically alkaline) forms in this wet environment and has built up to a depth of 1.5 metres here.

The marsh was probably owned by Ipsley Court, recorded in the Domesday Book, and is a remnant of a much larger farming landscape whose origins lie in the medieval period. Some of the old field boundaries survive in the area.

Cattle have grazed the area for hundreds of years and this practice continues with a local farmer's herd grazing the reserve. They eat grasses, rushes and sedges – helping to maintain its natural state and keeping it free of scrub.

Did you know...?

There are several veteran trees here. The largest, probably about 500 years old, grows in the plantation woodland. Its wide spreading low branches show that it once grew in an open landscape. The surrounding trees are periodically coppiced (cut almost to the ground) to allow light to reach the veteran to maintain its healthy open growth.



Hemp agrimony

I-spy...

Ant hills are evident after grazing. Relatively delicate plants such as fen bedstraw, marsh stitchwort and adder's-tongue fern grow in grazed areas. Larger wetland plants such as hemp agrimony, rushes and water mint dominate wetter areas. The mixed low scrub is ideal for many birds such as wren and chiffchaff. Ipsley is great for dragonflies throughout summer.



	Nature Trail
	Footpath
	Fenceline
	Reserve boundary
	Entrance
	Gate or stile
	Information board
	Woodland
	Marsh

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 are areas that are very wet and marshy. Please keep to marked trails and public rights of way
- Keep your dog on a lead at all times to avoid disturbing wildlife and take away any mess.
- Please take home any litter.

Seasonal Highlights

SPRING:

wood anemone, chiffchaff, grasshopper warbler, frogspawn

Yellow archangel can be found in the plantation woodland



© Paul Lane

SUMMER:

buzzard, kestrel, ringlet butterfly, common spotted orchid

Female emperor dragonflies may be seen laying eggs in the water



© Bob Tunstall

AUTUMN:

blackberries, green woodpecker

Harvest mice feed on blackberries in autumn



© Amy Lewis

WINTER:

siskin, heron, snipe, great spotted woodpecker

Snipe may be spotted feeding in the marsh



© Stuart Andrews

This reserve is one of over 70 nature reserves that we own or manage. They form part of our vision for a Living Landscape for Worcestershire. By working with other landowners, managers and communities we aim to **restore**, **recreate** and **reconnect** fragmented natural habitats to achieve a landscape where wildlife can flourish and people can lead healthier and happier lives.

We're part of a national network of The Wildlife Trusts, protecting wildlife across the UK.

You can help protect wildlife by:

- Becoming a member
- Making a donation
- Volunteering to help
- Encouraging wildlife at home or work

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Building Communities. Transforming Lives.