

# Welcome to Piddle Brook Meadows



Worcestershire



MEADOWSWEET

The meandering Piddle Brook and three adjacent meadows are rich in wildflowers and wildlife. The trees and hedgerows around the fields are home to birds, insects and small mammals. The song of the whitethroat can be heard during spring and summer.

To enhance the diversity of the grassland we will take a hay cut in summer and then graze the fields with livestock in autumn. We'll also continue the re-pollarding of some trees and manage the hedgerows and brookside vegetation to provide dense cover for nesting birds.

The meadows are adjacent to our Naunton Court Fields nature reserve; two arable fields farmed in a wildlife friendly way to conserve rare arable plants.

## Did you know...?

Three flowers – downy oat grass, dropwort and meadow rue – are especially scarce and their presence has helped part of the fields being officially recognised as a Local Wildlife Site. These make up a network of sites that are managed for wildlife and geological features.

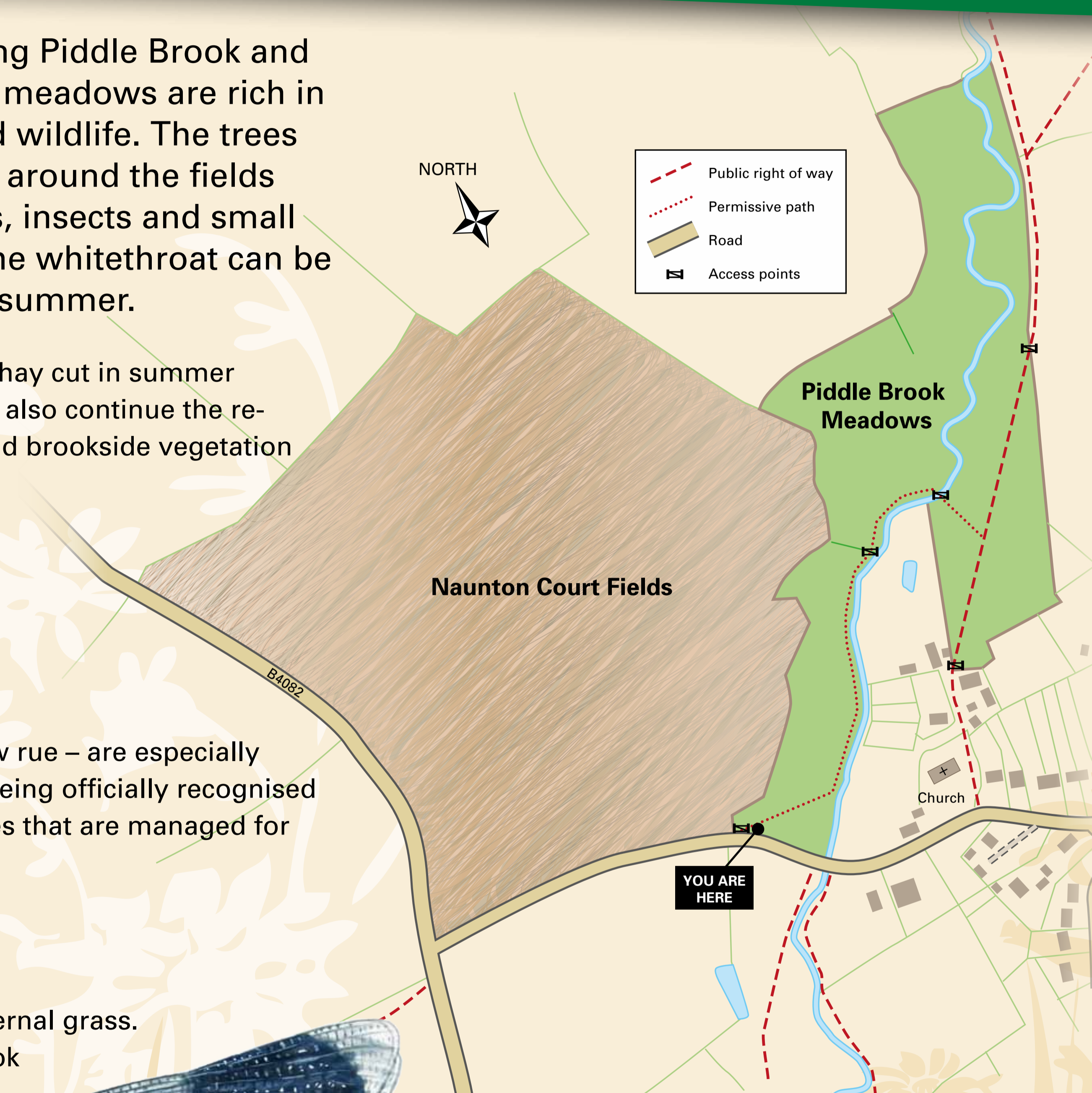
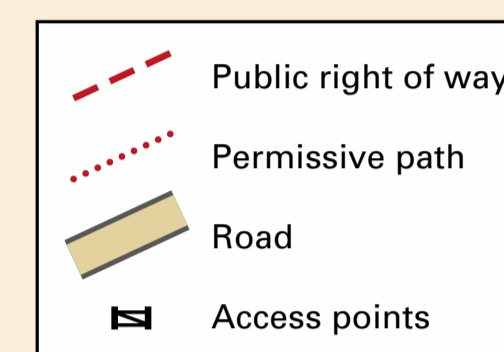
## I-spy...

In summer the meadows are full of wildflowers – yellow rattle, lady's bedstraw, salad burnet and sweet vernal grass. Look out for kingfishers and otters using the Piddle Brook and nearby vegetation for hunting and resting.



BANDED DAMOISELLE

NORTH



## Seasonal Highlights

### SPRING:

- Whitethroat • Yellowhammer
- Cowslips

*Whitethroats like to nest in dense hedgerows.*



© Pete Walkden

### SUMMER:

- Meadow rue • Meadow brown
- Dropwort • Banded demoiselle

*Dropwort is a sign that the underlying soils are calcareous (chalky).*



© ukwildflowers.com

### AUTUMN:

- Sloes and hawthorn berries in the hedgerows

*Hedgerow berries are good food for birds.*



© Wendy Carter

### WINTER:

- Flooding of the lower meadows.

*Flooding plays an important role in balancing nutrients in floodplain meadows.*



© Graham Martin

This nature reserve is one of more than 70 owned or managed by Worcestershire Wildlife Trust that form part of our vision for a Living Landscape. 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 happier and healthier lives.

## You can help protect wildlife by:

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

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

The purchase of this site was kindly supported by



## Please remember...

This nature reserve is here for the conservation of our local wildlife. For everyone to enjoy the reserve please respect the following:

- keep dogs on a lead to avoid disturbing wildlife and please take away any mess
- keep to marked paths and public rights of way
- take home any litter