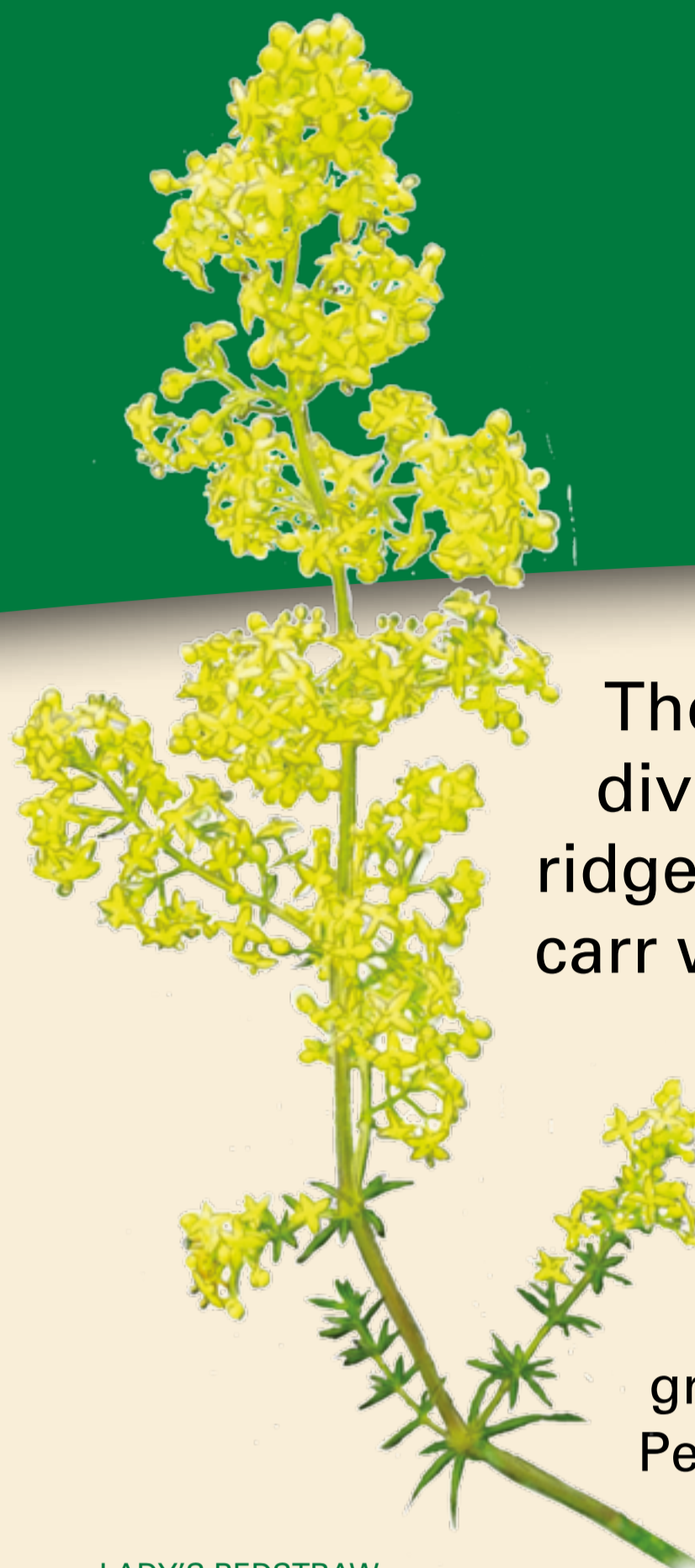


Welcome to Sands Meadow



Worcestershire



LADY'S BEDSTRAW

These meadows contain a diverse range of habitats – ridge and furrow grassland, wet carr woodland and scrub and marshy grassland with boundary hedgerows.

The meadows are part of a long chain of around 60 important grassland sites stretching from Pershore to Astwood Bank. In the immediate vicinity are Holberrow Green, Inkberrow's Millennium Green, Morton Bank and Stockwood Meadows. Sands Meadows provide an additional important link in this chain. The meadows were designated as a Local Wildlife Site in 1990, reflecting their importance for wildlife in the local landscape.

Around 60 species of grasses and flowering plants have been recorded in the meadows. We're aiming to increase these numbers through appropriately timed haymaking and grazing.

Did you know...?

We hope to increase the numbers and range of brown hairstreak butterflies by managing the blackthorn in the hedges to ensure that there is an abundance of the 2-5 year old growth which is favoured for egg laying. Our nearby Grafton Wood nature reserve is at the centre of the West Midlands stronghold of this nationally scarce butterfly.

I-spy...

Look for the black poplar tree – these scarce trees get their name from the gnarled and bumpy bark that looks very dark from a distance. During the summer months look for birds-foot trefoil. The yellow and orange colours of the flowers give it the local name of 'eggs and bacon'.



Please remember...

This nature reserve is here for the conservation of our local wildlife. Due to the fragility of the site please contact the Trust office on 01905 754919 for information about access and guided walks that we may hold here.



KNAPWEED

Seasonal Highlights

SPRING:

- Cowslips • Black poplar
- Bulbous buttercup

Black poplar: found at only 90 locations in Worcestershire but once a common sight in the landscape.



© Rebecca Lashley

SUMMER:

- Lesser waterparsnip • Crested dog's tail • Knapweed

Ox-eye daisy: a characteristic flower of unimproved meadows.



© Wendy Carter

AUTUMN:

Apple trees heavy with fruit.

Hedgerow fruit trees provide food for wasps, hornets and a wide variety of insects.



© Wendy Carter

WINTER:

- Fieldfare • Redwing

Winter thrushes like fieldfare (pictured) and redwing feast on fallen fruit.



© Karen Summers

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.

