

Managing open spaces at Monkwood nature reserve



**Worcestershire
Wildlife Trust**



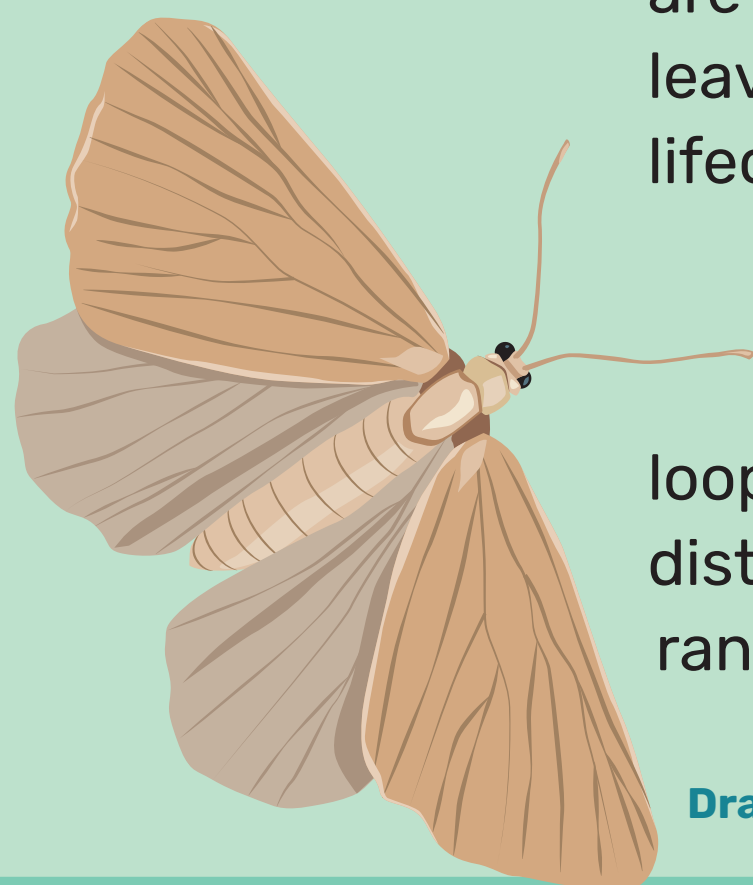
Ragged robin

Open flowery spaces are really important habitats and range from wide margins of paths and half-moon scalloped edges to sun-filled glades and wildflower meadows.

These open areas encourage plants to thrive, which support the vast array of invertebrates for which the woodland has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). In turn, the invertebrates form the basis of the foodchain for other wildlife throughout the woodland.

The glade in front of you is relatively wet, allowing damp-loving plants like meadowsweet and ragged robin to flourish. Other glades are very grassy and support grasshoppers and glow worms; we leave some areas long to ensure insects can complete their lifecycles over winter.

Wood spurge is common throughout the sunny parts of Monkwood and is the only foodplant of the rare drab looper moth. These mousey-brown moths have a very restricted distribution and Worcestershire is on the northern edge of their range, although this may change as our climate warms.



Drab looper



Bluebell

Did you know?

Scrubby edges to these open spaces are really important for nesting birds like chiffchaff, blackcap and willow warbler. Not all birds nest high in trees, many nest at or near to ground level so it's really important that you stick to paths and keep your dogs on a lead.

Your support

By volunteering, becoming a member, donating or leaving a gift in your will you can help us to manage this and more than 75 beautiful places for wildlife throughout Worcestershire. Your support really can make a difference, thank you.

Monkwood is jointly managed with Butterfly Conservation. Little Monkwood is co-owned by WWT and BC.



The purchase of land at Green Farm has been made possible by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, Severn Waste Services, The Banister Charitable Trust, 3dtotal.com Ltd, The LG Harris Charitable Trust, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and generous donations from Trust members and supporters.

