

Southeast Worcestershire Local Group

Winter newsletter 2025



Worcestershire
Wildlife Trust

I write this issue of our newsletter after a blustery walk on Bredon Hill, reaching the summit via Overbury and skirting its slopes overlooking Pershore, Eckington and across towards Malvern. Constant companions today, and I guess inspiration, for this contribution were two red kites – quietly circling, observing whilst quartering the open farmland that sits between the slivers of woodland atop the hill.

Once on the brink of extinction, branded as vermin, targeted by egg collectors and relentlessly killed, by the early 1900s only about five breeding pairs were clinging on in Wales. As a result of successful re-introduction, it is thought there are now around 4,400 breeding pairs in the UK.

Red kites are easy to spot with their long angular wings, a forked tail and russet body. They have relatively weak talons compared to other birds of prey and prefer to scavenge on carrion and roadkill. When they do hunt, they will take small animals like voles and rabbits. But they'll also eat earthworms!



Photo by Paul Lloyd

"A red kite – wide, graceful wings,
forked tail turning and turning to
catch the wind – the wind that
ruffled my own hair.
I stood, in wonder, and whooped,
in joy."

From the poem "Red Kite"
by Andrea Skevington

<https://andreaskevington.com/2019/11/12/poem-red-kite-y-barcud/>

Nick Rose

Walks and talks

Please see over for more information about what we've been up to recently and for details of our forthcoming winter programme.

The committee would like to thank everyone for their continued support for our events both indoor and out during the past few months. It has been great to welcome members from a little further afield at our mid-week rambles. We continue as a small committee and would welcome anyone who would like to join us in planning and organising future meetings. If you would like to know more please contact either Chris cwolstevesham@goodlemail.co.com or Nick nickrose01@btinternet.com

Winter - spring programme

Talks take place at the Friends Meeting House, Cowl Street, Evesham WR11 4PN, starting at 7.30pm and cost £3. All are welcome, please do bring along friends and family.

Wednesday 10th December 2025

Bats of Worcestershire

with Matthew Terry (*talk*)

Discover the fascinating world of our local bats with the Chair of Worcestershire Bat Group and trustee of Bat Conservation Trust.

Wednesday 11th February

Kemerton Lake through the seasons

with Kate Aubrey (*talk*)

Immerse yourself in this beautiful nature reserve as we're guided through its seasonal changes.

Wednesday 14th January 2026

Worcestershire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy

with Natalie Jaworski and Becky

Lashley (*talk*)

Discover more about plans to help restore nature in our county.

Wednesday 11th March

A quest for emperors, dragons and fair damsels

with Eden Tanner (*talk*)

Join us for a glimpse into the fascinating world of dragonflies and damselflies.

Our outdoor meetings, summer 2025

The summer ambles have continued to prove popular – generally the weather has been kind to us, although perhaps a little too warm at times.

Back in July we enjoyed an informal walk through Monkwood. The wood itself has a very long history and was originally owned by Worcester Priory, with the boundaries hardly changing in the last few hundred years. It is well known for its butterflies, including white admiral, purple hairstreak and silver-washed fritillary. Unfortunately, none of these colourful species were spotted on the day but we did see a large number of gatekeepers, wood whites and large whites as well as some common blues and the occasional speckled wood.

We also were fortunate to observe a number of grasshoppers, some deer and a hornet mimic hoverfly. Whilst we heard a few birds calling, including, we believe, a redpoll, not many were seen clearly.

Our walk on Bredon Hill in August focussed on aspects of regenerative farming and the importance of arable wildflowers and pollinators. It was clear to see the impact of our changing seasons and how nature's timetable compensates – heavy loads of berries alongside early autumnal colours.



Wood white by Kevin Williams



Gatekeeper by Kevin Williams