

# Explore Wildlife on Your Doorstep

The following text is a local information leaflet written to encourage people to visit a wetland area that has recently been developed.

Avon Meadows in autumn turns to gold and fire as the reeds dry, ready for harvesting, and the hedgerows glow red and purple with juicy berries. Look out for blackbirds and goldfinches gobbling up glistening blackberries and sour sloes, fattening up for the winter ahead.



Winter brings a bleak beauty all of its own. Early bloodshot sunsets bring starlings in their thousands, darkening the skies a little further with their formation flights that twist and turn across the sky, then as one, they plunge together into the reeds to feed and sleep. Come and explore with us ...

it blooms with the sound of the returning cuckoo. Orange tip butterflies are one of the first to emerge and rely completely on the nectar of the cuckoo flower for their food.



In summer, swifts and swallows greet the summer sun, swooping over the pools and meadows feasting on insects. Lush green reeds hide tiny sedge warblers feeding their young, while jewel-coloured dragonflies dance across the water, pausing to bask on the boardwalks.

In a few short years, Avon Meadows Community Wetland has developed into a wonderful place for people and wildlife. Whether you choose to stroll along the river bank, or follow the footpaths through the wetlands, you'll see wildlife wherever you go.

Avon Meadows also has hidden depths. It's not all about the wildlife you can see, sometimes you need to delve a little deeper. In the pools and ditches there's a whole secret world beneath the waters, where predators like great diving beetle larvae stalk between roots and stems and caddis fly larvae build their camouflaged cases out of bits of twig, sand and leaves.

In early spring, the meadows are dotted with the pale pink of ladies' smock or cuckoo flower, so called as

# AVON MEADOWS

Community Wetland



# EXPLORE WILDLIFE

on your doorstep

## Wetlands for All

The Wetlands for All project is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Wychavon District Council, Pershore Town Council and supported by the Friends of Avon Meadows. Since 2013, Wetlands for All has delivered footpath improvements across the meadows, including a new boardwalk made from recycled plastic, new tactile information panels, notice boards and walking guide leaflets. Local volunteers have been involved in every aspect of Wetlands for All, from wildlife surveys, to art workshops and developing a management plan for the future of the meadows. Wetlands for All is helping to make Avon Meadows a place that is rich in wildlife, loved and cared for by the people of Pershore who respect and value it as an accessible space to learn, explore and enjoy.

## The Countryside Code

### Respect other people

- Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors
- Leave gates and property as you find them and follow paths unless wider access is available

### Protect the natural environment

- Leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under effective control

### Enjoy the outdoors

- Plan ahead and be prepared
- Follow advice and local signs

## Friends of Avon Meadows

The Friends of Avon Meadows are a local community volunteer group, dedicated to managing and maintaining Avon Meadows on behalf of their local community. Not only do they carry out many practical tasks such as cutting the reed beds, coppicing small willows and keeping the paths clear and maintained, they also monitor the wildlife of Avon Meadows. This includes regular bird and butterfly surveys, dragonfly counts and surveying the plants that grow on Avon Meadows.

With all this information, the Friends of Avon Meadows are able to monitor the health of the meadows and adjust how the meadows and wetlands are managed to best benefit people and wildlife. The Friends of Avon Meadows work closely with Wychavon District Council and Pershore Town Council to meet their shared aims of access for everyone and wildlife conservation.

If you would like to find out more about the Friends of Avon Meadows, their work and how you can get involved in caring for Avon Meadows, please visit their website:

- [www.avonmeadows.org.uk](http://www.avonmeadows.org.uk)

Name: ..... Class: ..... Date: .....

**1** Name **two** routes you can take to explore the wetlands.

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 .....

**2** What do caddis fly larvae build with twigs, sand and leaves?

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**3** What do orange tip butterflies feed on?

.....

**4** Which birds eat the blackberries?

.....

**5** After a short introduction, the text is organised into four paragraphs, one for each season. Use the table below to list the different things you can see and/or hear in each season.

Spring	Summer
Autumn	Winter

**6** Look at the first panel of the leaflet on page 42. **Find** and **copy** a two-word phrase that means there is more to Avon Meadows than meets the eye.

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**7** Provide another word for each of the following to show you understand its meaning.

Word from the passage (page 42)	Alternative word
delve (“ <i>you need to delve a little deeper</i> ”) Panel 1	
predator (“ <i>where predators ... stalk</i> ”) Panel 1	
bask (“ <i>dragonflies ... pausing to bask on the boardwalks</i> ”) Panel 2	

**8** Find and copy two examples of language that is persuasive rather than informative. Explain what makes each of them persuasive.

Example of persuasive language	How does it try to persuade?

**9** After reading the leaflet, what do you imagine “wetlands” are?

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**10** After reading the leaflet, would you like to visit the wetlands?

Yes       No       Not sure

Explain your answer using information from the text.

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