

## Your local green space. Why not use it for...

**Nature Walks** - note the plants and animals you see and tell the volunteer group. This helps monitor the site and update records.

**Dog Walking** - please clean up after your dog, using the dog bins provided.

**School Visits** - some local schools already use the meadow for environmental education visits.

A school visit pack is available from CBLC (01249) 658180.

**Wildlife Watch Group** - for 7-11 year olds, uses the site as its outdoor base for many exciting activities. Interested and want to learn about and help local wildlife? Contact the WWT Watch co-ordinator (01380) 725670

**Conservation Tasks** - learn new skills, meet people and help wildlife while getting some fresh air and exercise! For details see back page.

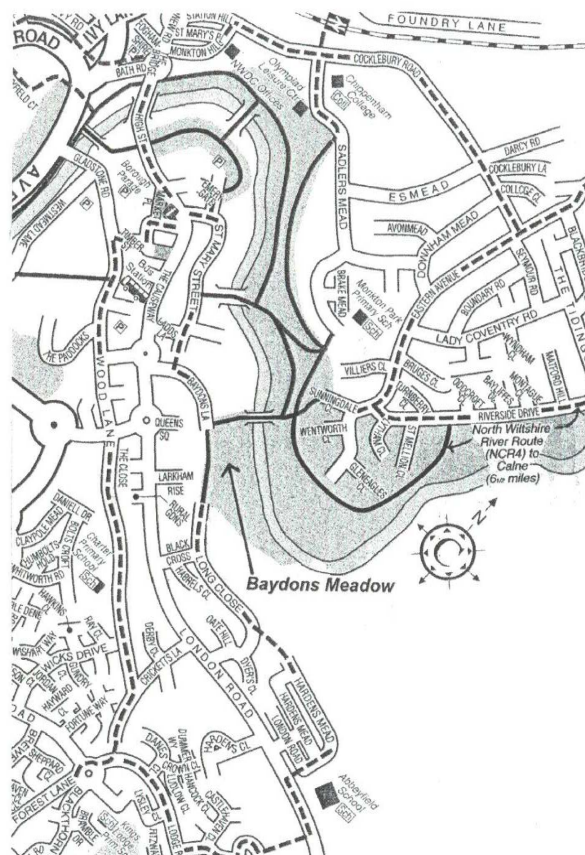
**Riverside walks** - Baydons Meadow completes a green corridor of recreational and wildlife-rich land along the River Avon through Chippenham. Visitors to the meadow can also enjoy the river's wildlife. Catch a glimpses of the iridescent blues of the kingfisher and damselflies, listen to the reed Warblers, mallard and moorhen or watch over the Nesting swans.

**Cycle** - The North Wiltshire Rivers Route (Friedberg Way) runs along the site's east boundary before crossing the blue bridge over the river Monkton Park and on to Calne. Why not take time to rest on the Meadows old log seat ?

**Fishing** - Contact the Chippenham Angling Club

*Please visit to enjoy the space, sights  
and sounds and see the  
information board and brick  
pathway designed by  
local children and  
volunteers*

## How to find it



## Baydons Meadow Baydons Lane Chippenham



**Why not get involved?  
Join the Baydons Meadow  
Wildlife Group volunteers.  
Contact us on (01249) 654608**

CHIPPENHAM BOROUGH LANDS CHARITY  
32 MARKET PLACE CHIPPENHAM WILTSHIRE SN15 3HP  
Telephone 01249 658180 Fax 01249 446048  
E- mail [admin@cblc.org.uk](mailto:admin@cblc.org.uk)



*'Our past helping your future'*



*Countryside on  
your doorstep!*





## Welcome to Baydons Meadow

In the past the meadow was known as Blackcross field and was cut for hay in July followed by grazing with cattle. When this stopped, many wildflowers were lost and the boundary hedgerow became overgrown and gappy.

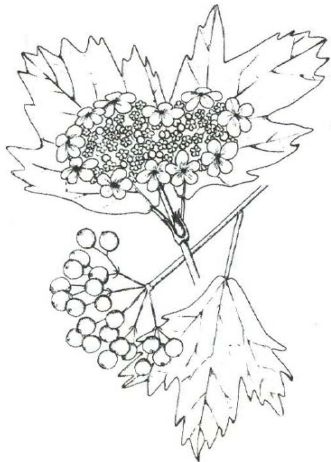
In 2000 Chippenham Borough Lands Charity (CBLC) purchased the site and in 2003 employed the help of the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust (WWT), to enhance the site for people and wildlife.

Since then volunteers of all ages have begun restoring the meadow and hedge. Many wild flowers have been introduced into the meadow and a new hedgerow of mixed native shrubs has been planted alongside the old, ivy-covered hawthorns, on the southern boundary.

Ongoing management. The site is now cared for by Baydons Meadow Wildlife Group.

Hay is once again cut in late summer when the flowers have dropped their seed, encouraging them to spread through the meadow. The cuttings are removed to reduce the growth of coarse grasses. Patches of bramble and nettle will be retained at the edge of the meadow and cut annually in rotation to give a variety of old and new growth. This along with areas of long grass will provide food, nest sites and shelter for insects in winter.

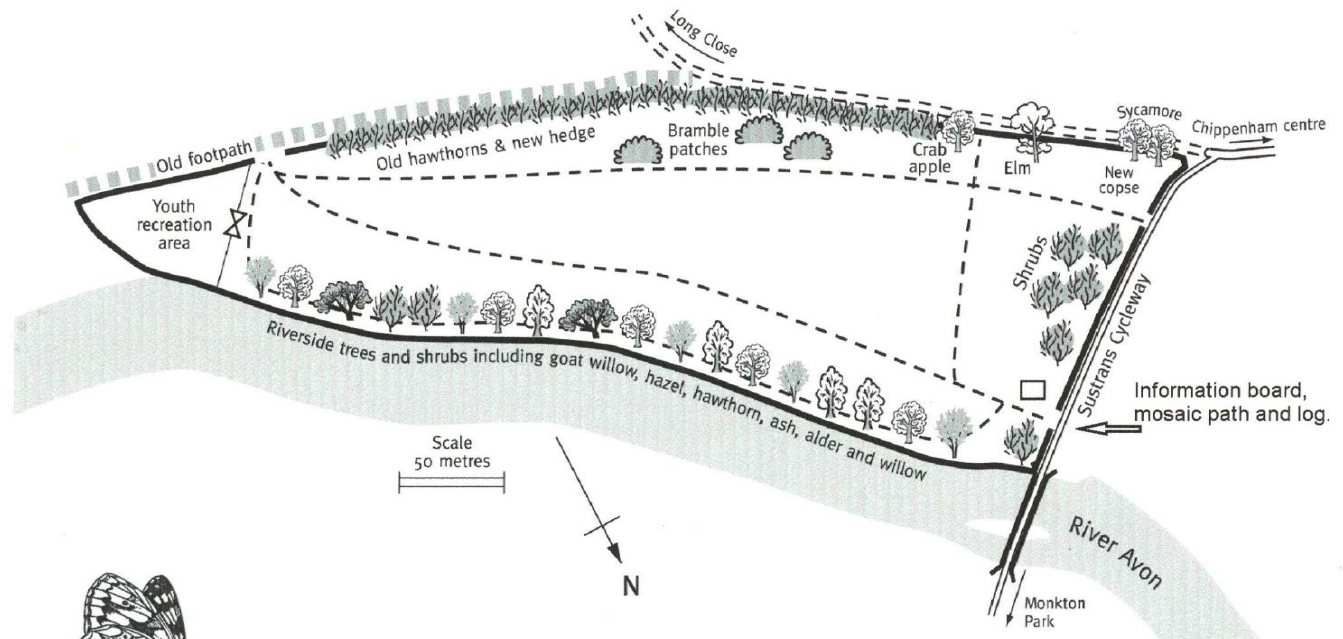
Along the hedge, some of the old hawthorns will naturally fall while others will be trimmed or coppiced (cut and allowed to re-grow from the stump), to allow light onto the new hedge, which will be weeded and pruned to encourage bushy growth. As the hedge matures it will be 'laid', providing a twigggy network ideal for nesting birds.



Guelder rose (*Viburnum opulus*) by Alison Saunders

In spring the boundaries are a flurry of activity as birds such as wren, robin, dunnock, and song thrush seek partners and suitable nest sites. In summer the grasses and flowers provide seeds and attract insects to feed the hungry young birds. The hedgerow and other areas of shrubs and trees include hazel, field maple, crab apple, guelder rose, dogwood, and buckthorn along with bramble and climbers such as wild hops and dog rose. These offer an extensive menu of nectar, berries, seeds and nuts to a range of wildlife. Riverbank trees include ash, willow and alder, supporting caterpillars of the alder kitten moth, alder sawflies and leaf beetles.

Frogs and toads enjoy the damp shade around the meadow edge, and in the tussocky grass, small mammals such as wood mice, bank vole and common shrew find refuge in their network of tunnels from the predatory hawk and barn owl. From dusk bats roosting in crevices of nearby trees and buildings begin to feed over the field and hedgerow. The most common is the small Pipistrelle bat, but also seen skimming the river is the larger Daubenton's bat.



Marbled white (*Melanargia galathea*) by Gerard Hobson

Butterflies and flowers. Look for the red campion from early spring, on the east side, in the shaded areas around the shrubs. As spring moves into summer, this is replaced with a flush of yellow and white from buttercups, yellow rattle, meadow vetchling and ox-eye daisy. Summer and early autumn sees the predominant blue and purple colours of meadow cranesbill, common knapweed, saw-wort, devil's bit scabious and thistles. Yellows return later in autumn with tall stems of fleabane and tansy.

Many of these flowers draw a variety of insects to nectar, including butterflies and some day-flying moths. In recent years, 22 species of butterflies have been recorded in the meadow, the majority of which breed in and around the site. Butterflies can be seen anytime between March and October, but the best months are June to August.

Large and small skippers, meadow browns and ringlets can be found in numbers along with others nectaring on the bramble flowers, while along the hedgerow you may see the holly blue, and the speckled wood, and on the wild hops, the comma. In the meadow look for the common blue, the small copper and the marbled white and, where there are nettles, the small tortoiseshell and peacock butterflies.

Common knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*) by Bonita Leszczynska

