



Why create a Community Meadow?



Creating a Community Meadow is a great way to **create a buzz** in your local area. Creating a meadow full of colour and the sounds of summer is a simple way to **bring people together** to do something that can make a **real difference to our wildlife.**

Wildflower-rich grasslands are essential for bees, butterflies, hoverflies and other pollinating insects. They also provide food and shelter for other wildlife, including birds and mammals.

Buzzing bees and other pollinators spend the spring and summer months collecting nectar and pollen to feed their young, and in the process pollinate our wildflowers, garden plants and crops. In doing this, they play a vital role in the production of the food we eat. Without pollinators we would have no apples, grapes or strawberries. In fact, most plants need help from pollinators to produce their fruit.

Our bees and other pollinating insects are in trouble. Their populations have declined drastically in recent decades. We now have only a fraction of the abundance and variety of the insect wildlife that we once had...

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Bees need your help!

FACTFILE

Get Britain Buzzing...

Why create a Community Meadow?

To help our bees and other pollinating insects

Bees and other pollinating insects have largely declined due to the loss of habitat, and in particular wildflower-rich habitats like meadows. A massive 97% (3 million hectares) of wildflower-rich grassland has been lost in the UK since World War Two. Changes in agriculture and loss of wild areas to development have taken their toll.

This loss of wildflower grasslands has caused drastic declines in pollinating insects. Bees, butterflies and hoverflies, many of which act as important pollinators for agricultural crops such as strawberries, raspberries and tomatoes have all been affected. The value of insect pollinators to agriculture is valued at more than £510 million each year in the UK alone.

Our pollinators **need our help**. They need more places to live and different types of food. By creating a community meadow, we can provide pollinators such as bees, hoverflies, beetles, butterflies, flies and moths with more food and places to live.

To help other wildlife

You can help our wildlife by transforming unused grassland in your local community into colourful and wildlife-rich wildflower meadows, which provide refuges and stepping stones for pollinators, as well as habitats and food for a range of other insects, amphibians, mammals and birds.

To create an attractive flower-rich area for all the community to enjoy

Community Meadows can provide enormous benefits for people too; projects can create visually stunning areas of natural art, which can improve surroundings and general well-being, they can be used as an educational tool or simply spaces for quiet enjoyment and beauty. These areas can bring communities together through their creation, management, use and enjoyment.

Getting outside and into nature has a wealth of benefits to us. You can learn new things and improve the health of your mind and body. Your meadow can be a focus point for community activities, thereby strengthening your neighbourhood.



Elephant Hawk-moth
Deilephila elpenor
©Alan Stubbs



Wildflower meadow
©Lorne Gill



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