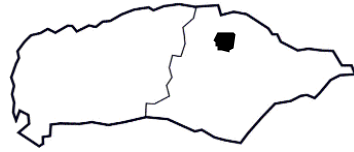


Brickfield Meadow



A good example of an unimproved Wealden meadow

Tucked away near the village of Fairwarp, lies a meadow rich in wildlife that has been managed in the traditional way without any agricultural improvement. Avoidance of chemical fertilisers has ensured that a great diversity of grasses and wild flowers, together with the insect life they support, can be found here. Although small, this type of meadow is important as it is threatened, both locally and nationally.

Brickfield meadow is at its finest in early summer when the majority of the herb-rich sward is in flower. Bird's-foot-trefoil and creeping buttercup are prominent with their golden blooms. Other plants, once common but now restricted to unimproved grassland, such as betony, pepper saxifrage and devil's-bit scabious all flourish here.

Highlights

Meadow flowers and grasses including betony, musk mallow and dyer's greenweed and an ancient hornbeam hedge.

A huge variety of grasses is found here, not the high yielding species favoured by livestock but finer and more delicate grasses such as fescues, bents and

sweet-vernal grass. In the damper areas, sedges and rushes including oval sedge, jointed rush and field wood-rush grow. An ancient boundary hedge, made up of layered and coppiced hornbeam, borders the meadow. This leads to a small stream flowing through a gill.

Brickfield is managed as a hay meadow with occasional grazing, this prevents the more competitive plants from dominating the sward. During late summer, seed is often harvested in conjunction with the High Weald Meadows Project. This seed is then available to be used in helping to restore other local meadows to their former glory.

Access

This 1.5 hectare reserve is located 400 metres from Fairwarp. Cars can be parked in the village, but please be considerate.

The Weald Way long-distance footpath crosses the reserve. There are gates at each end.