

DISCOVER

The Potwell Dyke Grasslands Southwell



The 1.72 hectares of The Potwell Dyke Grasslands are the last natural remnants of the Archbishop of York's deer park and hunting ground.

Owned by the Southwell Minster Chapter they comprise mainly hay and wet meadow with smaller areas of marsh, ponds and semi improved grasslands, divided by ancient hedges and bordered in part by the Potwell Dyke.

Now designated a Site of Interest for Nature Conservation the area is managed by volunteers as a nature reserve.

It is remarkable for the range and abundance of wildflowers and is one of a dwindling number of wholly natural grassland meadows, most having been destroyed by modern farming methods.

If you would like further information, would like to join our Saturday working parties or book a guided walk or school visit please either:

email us at: administrator@southwellminster.org.uk
or
telephone: 01636 817285



A comprehensive management plan prepared in 2004 forms the basis of an agreement between the Minster Chapter and Natural England to actively preserve this very rare and special site.



The grasslands are managed using traditional methods to maintain and enhance the variety of plants and wildlife. In Autumn hardy sheep graze the site to trample in the seeds thereby aiding their spread and germination.



Work on the site has resulted in a noticeable increase in the biodiversity of the grasslands. Over 200 plant species have now been identified including 4 orchid species, Southern Marsh, Common Spotted, Bee and Pyramidal.



Volunteers undertake work ranging from fence and hedge maintenance to pulling up invasive plants. Surveys are carried out to record the flora and fauna on site and the large number of butterflies, moths and other insects.



The National Curriculum encourages outdoor learning and the grasslands provide an excellent educational resource. School groups can learn about the history, geography and geology of the site as well as identification of flora and fauna.



Informal access is allowed. Dogs are permitted only on a lead. Please act responsibly, keep your dog close to you and always pick up after your dog. Dog mess discourages the growth of wildflowers and is unpleasant for other visitors.

