

Take a walk in Redditch



SUMMER is a great time to get out in the fresh air, have a picnic and see some of the wildlife around Redditch.

And to help inspire us to get out in the summer air, Arrow Valley Countryside Centre has a number of walks designed to help people learn more about the area.

The Meadows Trail

Start: Arrow Valley Countryside Centre

Length: 1 ½ miles, 1 hour

Terrain: Flat tarmac surfaces and grass fields. The walk can be wet and muddy after heavy rain.

Follow the orange coloured arrows and you won't get lost. Along the way look for butterflies such as Meadow Browns, Peacocks and Speckled Wood.

- 1** On the bank to the left is a natural sewage system. Made from willow, the system filters out waste products from the Countryside Centre leaving clean water. This is a totally environmentally responsible way of disposing of waste, without the use of chemicals.
- 2** Procter's Barn Meadow. Over 100 species of wildflower and grasses have been found here, including Ragged Robin, Knapweed, and Ox-eye Daisy. The meadow is cut using traditional management techniques, which are vital to maintain their importance for wildlife. Over the last 50 years, 97 per cent of traditional wildflower meadows have been lost from our countryside, making protection all the more important.
- 3** Nut Coppice. This recently planted woodland known as Nut Coppice, is so called because it is planted with Hazel and other nut-bearing fruit trees.
- 4** Along this path, look out for veteran Oak trees. They are well over 300 years old and are home to over 1,000 species of plant and animal.
- 5** Spiders Web Meadows. This meadow is also managed for wildlife and has many plant species including Knapweed, Ox-eye Daisy, Birdsfoot Trefoil, as well as a variety of grasses.
- 6** Bluebell Wood. Bluebell Wood contains a mixture of trees and shrubs in what is only one of two truly natural woodlands in Arrow Valley Country Park. The rest were planted in the 1960s. Natural woodlands can be recognised by the presence of Bluebells in the spring, a common plant in Britain but rare over the rest of Europe.
- 7** The area to the right is known as the Peace Garden. Why not take five minutes to reflect on your walk, before returning to the Countryside Centre for some well-earned refreshments?

