

FISHER'S NATURE RESERVE

Fisher's Field is a two-hectare Local nature reserve thriving on a former allotment site and is a haven for flora and wildlife. The site lies within Green Belt land and the Watling Chase Community Forest.

Before the Second World War, Fisher's Field was used by a local farmer for grazing his cattle. During the war, it was set up as an allotment site when it was imperative that food was grown locally. Much later the allotments fell into disuse and in 1994 Hertsmere Borough Council informed local residents that it was proposing to allow building on the site at the end of Bendysh Road. This concerned the residents and a proposal was made to the Council that as the site fell within the boundary of Watling Chase Community Forest and as most of the site was classified as Green Belt, it would make an ideal 'wildlife area' for the enjoyment of peace and tranquillity by the local residents and for the cultivation of a nature reserve which would be beneficial for flora and fauna.

Eleven new houses were built on the area which was not Green Belt, leaving approximately two hectares to grow naturally into the attractive and valuable amenity it is today.

In 1998, the site was granted Local Nature Reserve status.



Copse

There are pockets of woodland within Fisher's Field containing a mixture of trees including oak, wild cherry, rowan, hawthorn, willow, poplar, blackthorn, silver birch, hazel, horse chestnut and apple. The majority of these trees are native and appear to have naturally regenerated. The Friends of Fisher's Field have also planted a number of them.

Hedgerows

The hedgerows on the southern and western boundaries were planted in 1997 by the Friends. They are a mixture of native species including hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel, field maple and holly which you would find in a traditional hedgerow.

Management

A Greenspace Action Plan was drawn up between Hertsmere Borough Council, the Countryside Management Service and the Friends of Fisher's Field to ensure that Fisher's Field keeps its natural appearance and abundance of flowers, insects and birds, whilst providing easy access through the reserve for everyone.

Hertsmere Borough Council owns the site and is responsible for the maintenance of the reserve such as grass cutting and litter picking.

The Friends of Fisher's Field feel that the Local Nature Reserve is a valuable and valued amenity and that as the 500 or so trees and hedgerows grow and flourish, it will be future generations who will appreciate the foresight and hard work which created Fisher's Field Local Nature Reserve.

The site can be accessed by foot from Fishers Close off Bendysh Road and via footpath number 2 from Greatham Road and footpath 66 from Park Close.

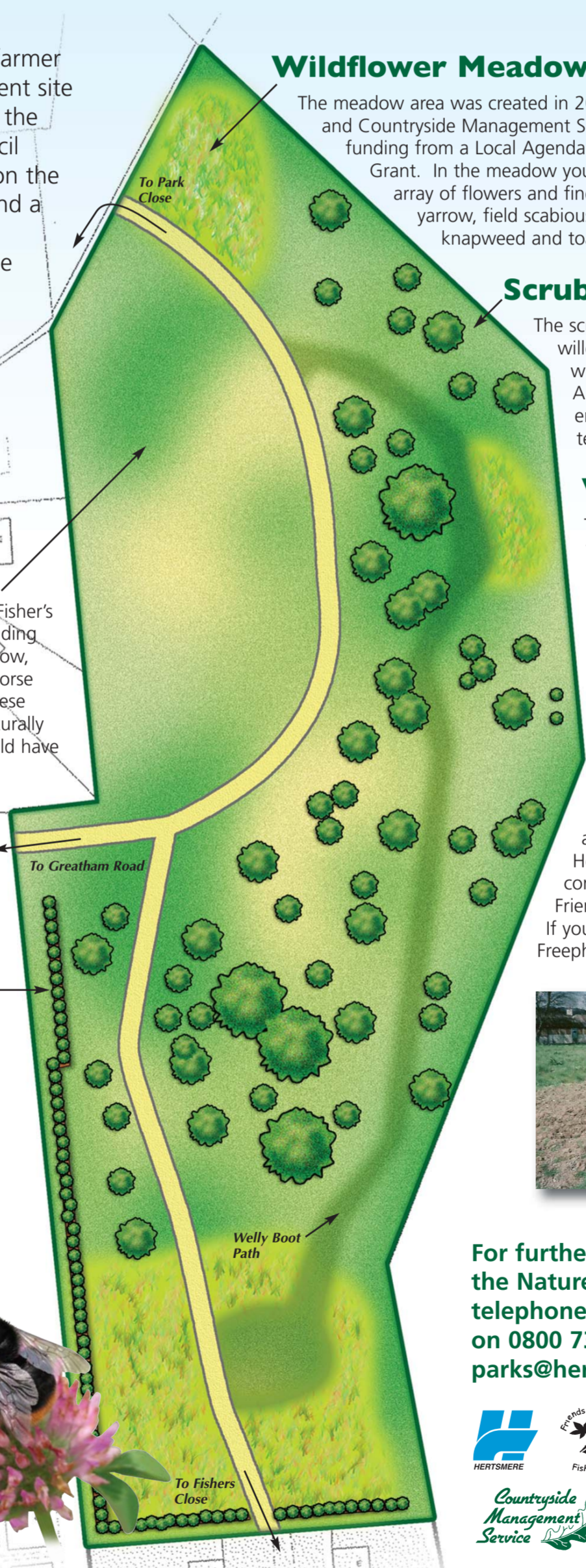


This picture shows the disused allotments before the Friends of Fisher's Field and Hertsmere became involved

Bumble bee on clover



Common Toadflax - *Linaria vulgaris*



Wildflower Meadow

The meadow area was created in 2001 by the Friends and Countryside Management Service thanks to funding from a Local Agenda 21 Community Grant. In the meadow you will find a wide array of flowers and fine grasses including yarrow, field scabious, marjoram, lesser knapweed and toadflax.

Great Willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum*



Bramble - *Rubus fruticosus*

Scrub

The scrub or undergrowth is made up of a mixture of bramble, raspberry, willow herb and nettles. This area is a very important natural habitat for wildlife and a source of blackberry and raspberry fruits for local people. Areas of scrub are managed to prevent it turning into a woodland and encroachment into other areas. Areas are cut and allowed to regrow on a ten-year rotation.

Wildlife

The Nature Reserve is teeming with wildlife including the reclusive green woodpecker, shrews and busy bees buzzing amongst the flowers in search of nectar. Foxes, rabbits and muntjac deer have also been known to visit amongst others.



The Friends of Fisher's Field

The Friends of Fisher's Field are a community group set up in 1995 who have played a vital role in the creation of Fisher's Field including hedgerow and tree planting, establishment of the wildflower meadow and scrub clearance. The Friends supplement the work carried out by Hertsmere Borough Council and the Countryside Management Service in conserving the site for the benefit and quiet enjoyment of the public. The Friends are enthusiastic local residents and welcome new members. If you are interested in joining the group please contact the Parks Freephone number below.



The Friends hard at work

Hawthorn - *Crataegus monogyna*



Field Maple - *Acer campestre*

Field Scabious - *Knautia arvensis*

For further information about the Nature Reserve please telephone the Parks Helpline on 0800 731 1810 or email: parks@hertsmere.gov.uk



Please dispose of your litter in the bins provided



Please clean up after your dog



Muntjac deer