

Both woodland and meadow **butterflies** can be seen in the reserve. Those to look out for include Orange Tip, Painted Lady, Small Skipper, Peacock, Tortoiseshell, Speckled Wood, Red Admiral, Meadow Brown, Common Blue, Marble White, Brimstone and Ringlet. Eggs have also been found on the reserve of the elusive and rare Brown Hairstreak.



Brown Hairstreak

Most of the smaller **trees and shrubs** growing on the reserve were planted by nature and in some areas need to be cut back so they don't take over the site. Some of the older trees have been here for hundreds of years.

Trees and shrubs that grow well include Ash, Oak, Willows, Hornbeam, Alder, Field Maple, Chestnut, Rowan, Buckthorn, Apple, Cherry and Hazel.



Redwing

Birds are the big success story of St Mary's. Since its inception the number and variety of have increased.

Summer visitors include Willow and Garden Warbler, Whitethroat and Chiffchaff. In winter Fieldfare, Redwing and Siskin can be seen.

Throughout the year many of the birds found in our gardens frequent the reserve and Barn Owls have been seen on the edge of the site.



Yellow Rattle

Wildflowers provide important food sources for bees and butterflies. Many of our native flowers can already be seen at St Mary's, but a project to encourage more flowers through a special planting and mowing regime has begun.

Wildflowers to look out for are Ox-eye Daisy, Common Vetch, Common St John's Wart and Hairy St John's Wart, Meadow-sweet, Yellow Flag Iris, Yellow Rattle, Clover, Lady's Smock, Hogweed, Wood Woundwort. Tufted Vetch and Hemp Agrimony.



Orange Tip Butterfly

Kidlington Parish Council



The reserve is managed by a group of volunteers, in cooperation with the Parish Council who meet on the first Saturday of each month, 10-12pm.

New volunteers are always most welcome - if you would like to get involved contact the Parish Council on 01865 372143.

St Mary's Fields Reserve Kidlington



Welcome to St Mary's Fields. They had once been agricultural land and for several years had enjoyed neglect but were becoming impenetrable in places.

The reserve was created in 1999 to provide a nature reserve and an open space accessible to all the people of Kidlington. The 14 acre site is managed by volunteers in cooperation with the owners, Kidlington Parish Council.

In 2002, St Mary's Fields was the first site in Oxfordshire to be designated a Jubilee Wildlife Site. It also lies within the Lower Cherwell Valley Conservation Target Area (CTA).

St Mary's Fields

