# Welcome to... Funges Meadow Nature Reserve

## Discover

Managed for its biodiversity, community engagement and educational use, this small Nature Reserve is a real haven for wildlife. Funges Meadow is a key part of a chain of off-stream habitats that run between Desborough Recreation Ground through to Bourne End whose human, industrial and environmental histories reflect the importance of the river and associated habitats to the heritage of High Wycombe.

## Enjoy

Funges Meadow has a wonderful mix of habitats for such a small area so close to the town centre. The pond has aquatic and marginal zones, there is a wildflower meadow and really importantly large areas of open-structured thorn, scrub and bramble, often lacking in urban areas, which provides an ideal nesting habitat and a rich food source with a variety of haws, hips and berries.



### ▶▶Broad-bodied Chaser
*Libellula depressa*

A medium sized dragonfly with a characteristic flattened abdomen, they are usually visible from May to early September. The male is a bright powder-blue and the female greenish-brown, both with yellow spots along the side.



### ▶▶Siskin
*Carduelis spinus*

An elusive, small, colourful finch with a distinctive yellow stripe on black wings. These acrobatic little birds are seen locally mainly in the winter. Listen out for their song: a pleasant mix of twitters and trills.

### ▶▶Kingfisher
*Alcedo atthis*

An unmistakable and beautiful sight as they fly low along the Wye and Backstream, they can be seen fishing from pondside perches at Funges Meadow and occasionally they will hover over the water as they hunt their prey. A Kingfisher nest box has been constructed on the small island in the pond.





### ▶▶Swollen-thighed Beetle
*Oedemera nobilis*

A pollen-feeding beetle commonly seen on the open-structured flowers of cow parsley, ox-eye daisy and bramble and best spotted among the flower heads on hot days.

### ▶▶Little Egret
*Egretta garzetta*

This small heron with its brilliant white plumage and distinctive black legs with yellow feet is now very much at home in our local chalk streams and ponds. They can often be seen standing motionless at the water's edge waiting for prey.





### ▶▶Black Mullein
*Verbascum nigrum*

Found on open, dry chalky sites this tall biennial with spikes of yellow flowers is the caterpillar food plant for the scarce Striped Lychnis moth and will also attract bees as well as birds who feast on the numerous seeds.

### ▶▶Willow Warbler
*Phylloscopus trochilus*

A small, beautiful bird with a sleek and elegant body shape, a grey-green back with a yellowish chest and a prominent pale eye stripe. They have a melodious, liquid song that rises in volume as it descends the scale before quietening and fading away.



### ▶▶Water Mint
*Mentha aquatica*

A perennial flowering plant of shallow channels and margins. This highly aromatic mint has dense clusters of lilac-pink flowers that attract butterflies and other pollinating insects. The leaves can be used to flavour food and make a refreshing tea.



Partners...

WYCOMBE DISTRICT COUNCIL · Revive the Wye · Environment Agency · Thames Water

Funges Meadow
Managed by
**Chiltern Rangers**
on behalf of WDC to ensure its biodiversity is enhanced for the benefit of wildlife and the local community.

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Take only photos and memories, leave only footprints, kill only time.

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