

Leigh Village



Welcome Pack

**A helpful guide for new
residents**

**This welcome pack has been collated and
produced by Leigh Parish council supported by
All Saints Church Leigh.
We hope you will find it useful.**

WELCOME TO THE LEIGH

www.leigh-village.co.uk

A very warm welcome to the village of The Leigh (pronounced 'Lie'). The history will be explained in another paper!

The village is very small, about 300 residents, lots of horses, sheep and cattle. The houses are spread over an area about 2 miles by 1 1/2 miles.

The Parish Council meets every two months, in our church, All Saints.

Councillors are:

Mandy Thomas, Chairman - 01285 860488, mandy@waterhay.co.uk

Richard Rumming, Vice Chairman - 01285 861253

Anthony Beechey - 07842341691

Ivor Hayward - 01285 869449

Roger Baker – 01666 860267

Phil Ray

Tom Cowdry

Jennifer Davies, Clerk - 01285 862196, jenniferdavies188@yahoo.co.uk

Chuck Berry, County Councillor – chuck.berry@wiltshire.gov.uk

James Grey, North Wilts MP - jamesgraymp@parliament.uk

Please feel free to contact any of us for help or guidance.

Enclosed is a brief history of The Leigh, a map of the village, information on transport links, a current parish magazine, and information on the Church and Old Chancel.

There are also notice boards located outside The Foresters pub on the B4040, outside All Saints church as well as one situated on Swan Lane by Hillside.

There is an annual Leigh village party – usually on the first Sunday of June. Notices will be posted.

Also follow our groups on Facebook, www.facebook.com/groups/leighwiltshire/,
www.facebook.com/groups/SaveLeighChurch/

Mandy Thomas
Chairman, Leigh Parish Council





Welcome!
From All Saints Church in the Leigh

All Saints Church, Leigh, its ministers and congregation welcomes you to our village and its church. We hope you will be very happy here in this small friendly community. Here in Leigh, despite the wide area, people really do look out for each other and support neighbours when help is needed.

We are one of four churches in the Upper Thames Group (along with Ashton Keynes, Cricklade, and Latton) and although our congregation is small we aim to “make room for all”. Any parish church is a “Christian presence in the community” and we are here to serve the needs of the whole village and your needs too.

We would be delighted to welcome you to our festival celebrations at which we welcome all.

Look out too for JAM (Jesus And Me) which we offer for our children and young people after school on Fridays in warmer months, celebration events such as June Parish BBQ, Harvest supper and Christmas tree lighting. In July, join us for our annual visit to Waterhay Old Chancel churchyard in the fields near Waterhay farm.

We look forward to meeting you and if you would like to contact us our details are below.

Every Blessing
Shirley and Phil

Revd Phil Bradley (*Vicar*) Tel 01793 226350 philipjbradley@me.com
Revd Dr Shirley Danby (*Associate Minister with focus on Ashton Keynes & Leigh*)
Tel 07980 548844 shirleydanby21@gmail.com

This welcome pack has been collated and produced by Leigh Parish Council in association with All Saints Church Leigh.



Life at All Saints Church - The Leigh

Leigh church community aims to "make room for all".

We're a small congregation and hold services in the church at festivals (Easter, Christmas, Harvest, Remembrance) and we welcome people of all ages as we meet together and worship God. We have several families who join us.



Weddings, baptisms (christenings) and funerals are also held in the church and the recently extended churchyard is a place for burials.

Our Christmas Eve "carols by candlelight" service welcomes many from the village and beyond and afterwards mulled wine and mince pies are enjoyed.

A community group '**Save Leigh Church**' raises money for the church building so it will continue to be a Christian presence at the heart of the community in future generations.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/leighwiltshire/?fref=ts>
<http://leigh-village.co.uk/allsaintsapp.html>

A space can be opened up near the back of the church and is used by our children and young people's group called JAM (Jesus And Me) and we're looking further at ways the church building can be made a place which the community can use. The Parish Council meet in the church.

JAM (Jesus And Me) takes place in the summer months in church on Fridays at 4.15 pm. It's a bit like a mini Messy Church and we explore what Jesus teaches us through story and activities and we finish with light refreshments. Contact Rev Shirley on 07980548844 or Suzi Tipper on 01793 750778 for more.



The children who attend JAM have helped to decorate the church at festivals and taken part in services.



The church and churchyard host village events such as the June parish BBQ and a Harvest Celebration and supper in September. Look out for details on the Leigh village website <http://leigh-village.co.uk/>

Waterhay old chancel

All Saints Church Leigh was built on its current site around 120 years ago. It used to be sited in the fields near Waterhay, but stone by stone, most of it was moved and built on its present site. Each summer, on the last Sunday in July, we hold outdoor services in the churchyard round the old chancel, at 10 am and 6pm.

As you can see the young and not so young come, as well as dogs. The sun usually shines and everyone is welcome to join us.



Exploring faith

All Saints Leigh is one in of the Upper Thames Group of four churches (along with churches in Ashton Keynes, Cricklade & Latton). We hold Alpha courses in Cricklade, Messy Church in both Ashton Keynes and Cricklade, Informal Worship in Cricklade 4 pm each Sunday afternoon and traditional services on Sunday mornings and some Sunday evenings in other churches.

Our website <http://www.upperthames.org.uk/> has further details of all church events or Revd Phil our vicar and Revd Shirley (whose ministry focusses on Leigh and Ashton Keynes) can tell you more.

If you or your children would like to be christened (baptised is another word for this ceremony) or confirmed, please also do get in touch with Revd Shirley (Tel 07980 548844)

A Brief Guide to the History of The Leigh

The Leigh, as it is often referred to, means a clearing in a forest, which in this case was the former royal hunting forest of Braydon. The parish consisted of around twenty farms with most of the population working on those farms. In 1841 the population of The Leigh was 300 and has changed little since. The acreage at that time was 1350, but the parish was made considerably larger during the 1970s when land to the south of the B4040 was added.



The Church was originally built around AD1250 in the fields at Waterhay, but when the building fell into a poor state of repair, it was decided to move the nave stone by stone to a new site on Swan Lane and build a new Chancel, leaving the old chancel on the original site. This work was done during the summers of 1896 and 1897. The old Chancel is now looked after by the Churches Conservation Trust, and the surrounding churchyard is cut annually by volunteers. It is considered a very special place by the residents of Leigh.

If you are interested in local history a new book has been published (October 2015), exploring the history of The Leigh. A copy can be purchased by contacting Richard Rumming on 01285 861253.



SAVE LEIGH CHURCH

In 2014 an informal group of supporters got together to raise both funds and awareness about the future of All Saints Church. It is the only 'community' building in the Parish and had exhausted its reserves with repairs to the roof and belfry.

The group's aims are to ensure the church is kept open for the use of the village and indeed to encourage its use for community activities – only some 5 or 6 services are held there each year. The group works closely with but is independent of the Parochial Church Council.

There is an occasional Christmas Raffle, a 200 Club with monthly draws and other 'one off' activities. To find out more contact Hugh Thomas (hugh@waterhay.co.uk).

LEIGH SECOND POOR CHARITY

This ancient charity was set up in the 18th century 'for the relief of the poor', with a bequest of land in the parish. Most of that land has now been sold and the proceeds invested with the advice of an Independent Financial Adviser. The charity has a modest annual income and is keen to help any resident of Leigh who is in need – for whatever reason and however transient the need. If you are in need or know of someone who is, contact any of the charity's trustees in total confidence:

Roger Baker	leighrjb@tiscali.co.uk
Richard Rumming	waterhayfarm@googlemail.com
Mike Bowness	bowness629@btinternet.com
Keith Carter	hlodge1@aol.com
Hugh Thomas	hugh@waterhay.co.uk

Local Transport Information

Railway Stations:

Kemble Railway Station,
Windmill Road, Kemble GL7 6AW
Contact National Rail on: 03457 000125

Swindon Station,
Station Road,
Swindon, SN1 1DQ
Contact National Rail on: 03457 484950

Bus Service :

Stops situated at Foresters Arms, Ashton Road and Swan Lane
Bus operator Stagecoach, Swindon.
Bus number 53 serves surrounding areas.
For a full list visit www.stagecoachbus.com
Contact telephone no. 01452 418630

Taxi Services:

Hill's South Cerney Taxis
www.southcerneycabs.co.uk
South Cerney
Cirencester 01285 860181

Cirencester Taxis
Paget House, The Waterloo
Cirencester GL7 2QF
01285 642767

Centurion Taxis
34 Stepstairs Lane,
Cirencester
01285 659288

Cirencester Radio Taxis
111 Cricklade Street
Cirencester GL7 1JF
01285 850850

Swindon Station Taxis
01793 205222
www.swindonstationtaxis.co.uk

Fueling Stations:

Esso Service Station (**5.4 miles**)
A419 Cricklade SN6 6JR
Contact telephone no. 01793 752747

Texaco Service Station (**8.5 miles**)
Burford Road, Cirencester GL7 5DS
Contact telephone no. 01285 648940

Tesco Petrol Station (**7.4 miles**)
Kings Meadow, Cricklade Road,
Cirencester,
GL7 1NP

Shops:

Ashton Keynes Village Shop (**c.2 miles**)
High Road (next to The White Hart Pub)

Opening Times: Mon-Fri 7.45am-7pm
Sat – 8.30am-7pm
Sun – 9.30am-12.30pm

Parish Emergency Plan

Leigh Parish Council in conjunction with Wiltshire County Council have formulated a plan of action in case of an emergency occurring within its boundary.

Such an emergency may be caused by-

Severe Weather (flood, snow etc.)
Utility Failure (electricity etc.)
Flu Pandemic
Disasters (Fire, Crashes etc.)

Councillor Ivor Hayward has been designated the emergency coordinator and volunteers have come forward to help with the following:

Four wheel drive vehicles
Tractors and drivers
Medical experience/First Aider
Chainsaw (petrol)
Water Pumps (petrol)
Car owners to assist vulnerable parishioners

Any further volunteers would be greatly appreciated. If you feel that you could be of assistance under these conditions OR if you feel that you may be vulnerable (pensioner, disabled) under any such emergency please contact:

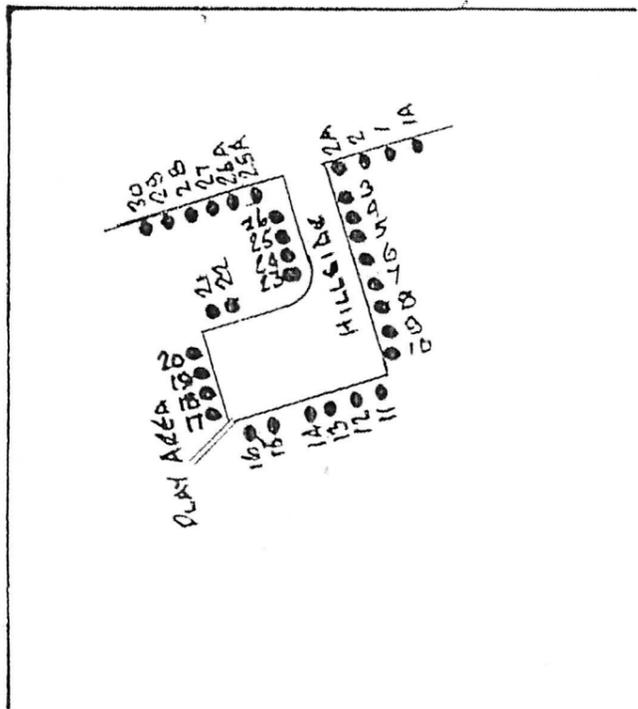
ivorhayward@outlook.com or phone 01285 869449

Emergency Information

Flooding – Emergency equipment (petrol water pumps, gel sacks, road signs etc.) are available from the emergency coordinator and the parish chairman

Medical – A defibrillator will shortly be located in the old public telephone box at Hillside. First Aid Kits are located at the Church (Swan Lane) and the Old Chancel (Waterhay).

LEIGH PARISH-AUG '2015 14.





Location

Cricklade

SN6 6RA Grid Ref - SU073923

Access - Dogs are not allowed on Blakehill Farm. Suitable for pushchairs and wheelchairs.

If driving – Blakehill Farm is signposted off B4040, Malmesbury Road, between Minety and Cricklade, adjacent to village of Leigh. From Cricklade drive about 1.3 miles from edge of town. The reserve entrance is on the left about 100 yards after entering Leigh. From Minety drive about 3.2 miles. Reserve entrance is on right about 0.5 miles after the Forester's Arms pub. For car park follow the signs from the new vehicle access road.

If using bus – Service 50 travels from Cricklade to Cirencester via Leigh and Ashton Keynes. Service 52 travels from Swindon through to Royal Wootton Bassett via Minety. Visit www.wiltshire.gov.uk/parkingtransportandstreets

If cycling - Local route from Cricklade goes all the way into Blakehill Farm, with access via Chelworth Industrial Estate. Continue past World War II Memorial Cairns and Purley Farm House. Visit www.sustrans.org.uk

Nearby reserves – Brockhurst Meadow, Upper Waterhay

Stoke Common Meadows

SN5 4LL Grid Ref – SU065903

Access – Not suitable for pushchairs and wheelchairs. Dogs on leads are welcome.

From Blakehill Farm a footpath to Stoke Common Meadows leads across the fields south west from the perimeter track opposite the Whitworth Building.

About Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

Our vision is to create a county rich in wildlife and help people live sustainable lifestyles that protect the environment for the benefit of everyone.

We have about 18,500 members, look after almost 40 nature reserves, are supported by hundreds of volunteers, and work with local communities, schools, businesses and public bodies to achieve our aims. To do all this we rely on the support of our members.

If you would like to join us, or to find out about how you can help the environment, please visit www.wiltshirewildlife.org Wiltshire Wildlife Trust Ltd. Elm Tree Court, Long Street, Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 1NJ. Telephone (01380) 725670 info@wiltshirewildlife.org

Join us on [Facebook.com/WiltsWild](https://www.facebook.com/WiltsWild)

Follow [@WiltsWildlife](https://twitter.com/WiltsWildlife)

Registered charity no. 266202



Front cover: Brown hare, David Kjaer WWT

Blakehill Farm

Including
Stoke Common
Meadows



Blakehill Farm including Stoke Common Meadows

Total complex 263.69 hectares

Blakehill is the farm base for our northern reserves. We cut the hay in July after the **skylarks** have nested, then graze with cattle and sheep to control vigorous grasses. In some areas we are reseeded with local wildflower seed. The reserve is very flat and easy to navigate on the tarmac tracks.

We are turning this former military airfield back into wildlife-rich hay meadow and pasture, habitats which have steeply declined in Wiltshire and the UK. On this one reserve we are meeting more than 45% of the government's 10-year target for restoring **hay meadow** in England! In World War II Dakotas took off from here carrying troops and equipment to the battlefields of Europe. The old runways are long gone but they can still be traced by the changes in vegetation. Now the grassland is home to brown hare, roe deer, kestrel and skylarks.

Wildlife

Living in the margins, hedgerows, ponds and damp ground are many wildlife species, including bullfinch, lapwing, **grass snake** and 14 species of dragonfly. Through the summer adder's-tongue fern, great burnet, **oxeye daisies**, ladies bedstraw and bird's-foot-trefoil flower in the grasses.

Spiny restharrow and **dyer's greenweed**

are rare but survive here. Above the flowers fly small copper, brown hairstreak, **common blue** and marbled white butterflies.

Birds include wheatears, whinchats, stonechats, **partridge**, barn owls and tawny owls.

Stoke Common Meadows

These five meadows northwest of Purton are a mass of wild flowers in spring and summer. The finest, Jordans and Upper Field, are a designated **Site of Special Scientific Interest**.

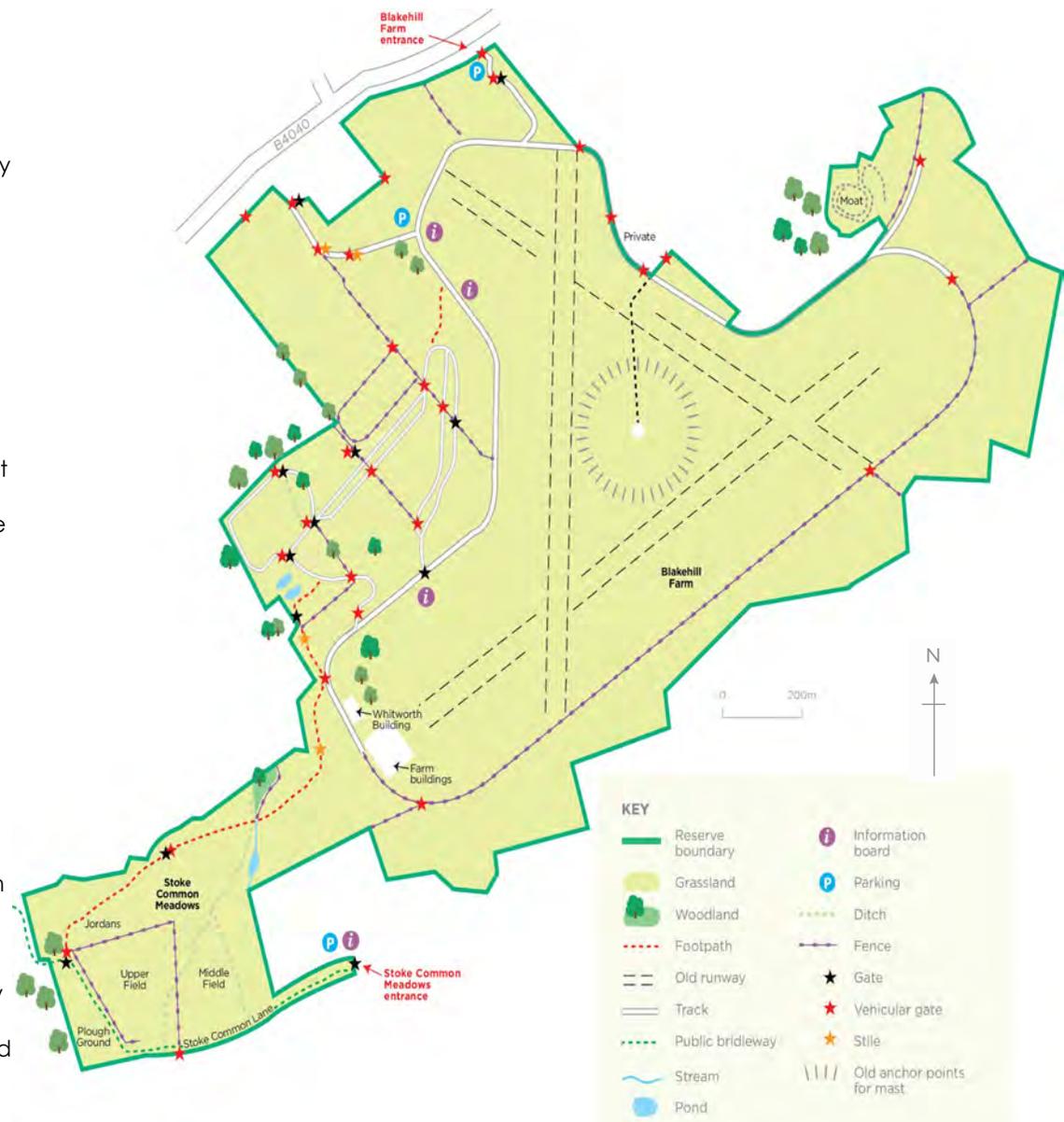
Mostly the meadows were used for hay but the long, narrow field on the southern boundary, Stoke Common Lane, was once a **cattle drovers'** route.

Come in summer to see the wildflowers - **common knapweed**, devil's-bit scabious and delicately fragrant pepper-saxifrage. Near the stream and ponds look for ragged robin, **cuckoo flower** and greater bird's-foot trefoil.

The copse is dominated by oaks 50-150 years old and there are large stumps of English elm. In May, bluebells flower beneath the trees.

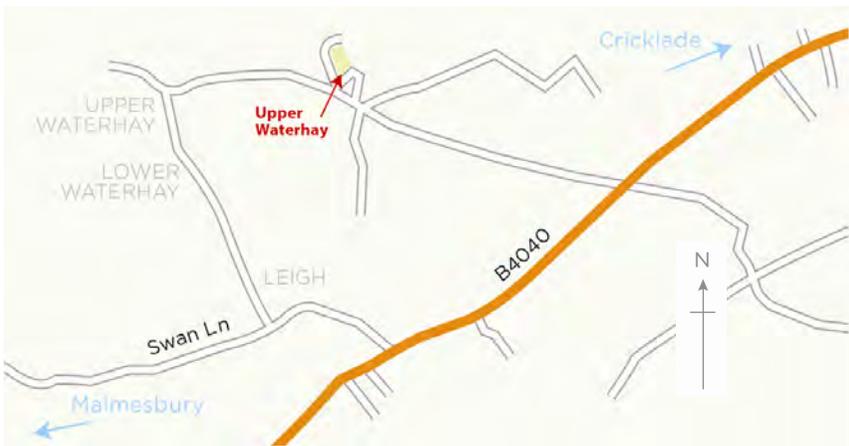
We trim the hedgerows in rotation, always allowing some young blackthorn to remain as a food plant for **brown hairstreak butterfly** larvae.

The gently sloping meadows are extremely wet in the winter, but do still visit as this is the best time to see birds such as snipe and teal



Brown hairstreak, Vince Massimo. Grey partridge, Margaret Holland. Grass snake, Jamie Hall. Common knapweed, Shirley Greeman. Cuckoo flower, Philip Precey





Location

Near Cricklade Grid ref SU068936

Access – Not suitable for pushchairs and wheelchairs. Dogs on leads are welcome.

If driving – Reserve is best approached from B4040 between Malmesbury and Cricklade. At Chelworth Upper Green crossroads, about one mile from edge of Cricklade, turn right up minor road towards Ashton Keynes. Follow this for about one mile. The access track to reserve is on right immediately after Manor Farm (there is no sign for reserve here).

Park at Waterhay car park. Turn left out of the car park along the road over the Thames towards Cricklade. Just before Manor Farm turn left and climb over stile next to locked double gates and proceed north along farm track for about 400 metres skirting the edge of the lake. Entrance to reserve is in front of you.

If using bus – Bus 52 Swindon to Minety via Cricklade. Get off at Chelworth Upper Green crossroads and walk about 20 minutes westwards (towards Ashton Keynes) to reserve. Visit www.wiltshire.gov.uk/parkingtransportandstreets

If cycling – For more information visit www.sustrans.org.uk

Other reserves nearby – Blakehill Farm, Sandpool

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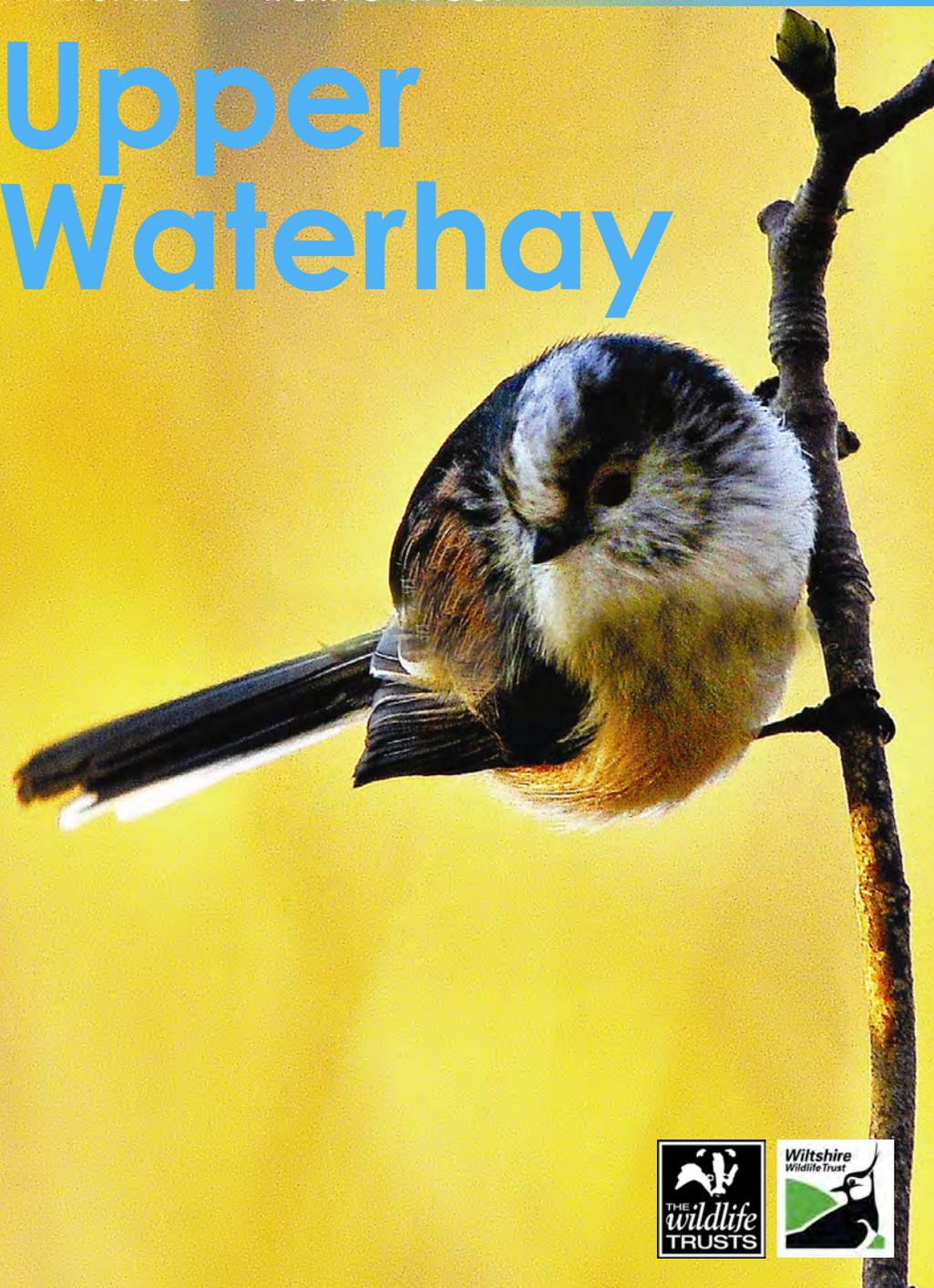
Front cover: Long-tailed tit, Steve Waterhouse

A sustainable future for wildlife and people

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

Nature reserves

Upper Waterhay



Upper Waterhay

2.82 hectares

This stunning wildflower meadow is a stronghold of **snakeshead fritillaries**, which in the 1950s were so common along the Thames Valley that they were picked and gathered by the armload. Sadly, they now survive only in a few protected places.

Uniquely most of them here are creamy white, rather than the more common dark purple. You can see the bell-shaped flowers from mid-April.

Wildlife

The colour palette of the meadow changes throughout the summer, taking in the shaggy purple heads of common knapweed, the vibrant yellow flowers of meadow buttercup and yellow rattle, and frothy cream-coloured meadowsweet.

Great burnet grows throughout the meadow. Reaching 1m tall in summer, its dark crimson flowers bob gently in the breeze. It gets its name from the old French word 'brunette'.

Also look for rough hawk's-beard, which has golden flowers striped on the underside with deep orange; and tufted vetch, with its ladders of brilliant purple-blue flowers.

The reserve lies on the floodplain of the River Thames and each year the winter floods enrich the meadows by depositing alluvial silt over them.

Wetland plants thrive - marsh marigold, ragged robin, **water forget-me-not** and the mauve lady's smock. This is the larval food plant of green-veined white and **orange-tip** butterflies.

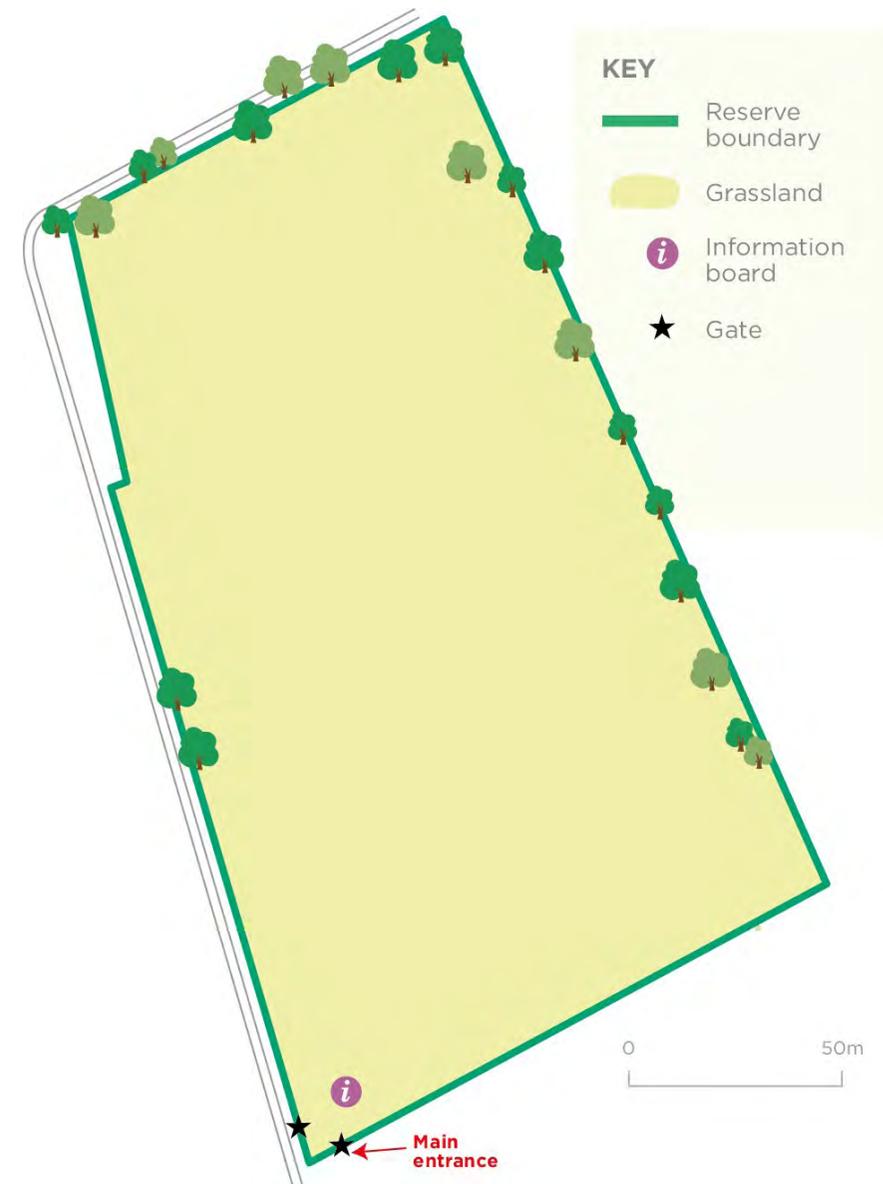
The mix of grasses, sedges, rushes and wildflowers within the meadow attracts many insects. In spring **mayflies**, with their three distinctive curving tails, dance in the air. Summer brings clouds of common blue damselflies.

In their wake come reed buntings, **long-tailed tits** and sedge warblers; while during flooding snipe, curlew and gadwall forage in the mud.

You may be lucky enough to see the rare **marsh harrier** and bittern, as well as the more common fox and roe deer.

We bought the reserve in 1970 and have carried on managing it in the traditional way. A farmer grazes it with cattle during the autumn when fritillary bulbs are dormant. The cattle are removed in winter so that hay can grow. Then we cut the hay in early July after the flower seeds have ripened and dispersed.

Fields managed in this way are referred to as 'unimproved' since their only source of enrichment is cattle manure. And this is why so many wildflowers grow here.



Snakeshead fritillary, David Hall WWT. Great burnet, Rob Large WWT. Water forget-me-not, Rob Large WWT. Orange tip, Darin Smith. Mayfly, Jon Hawkins - Surrey Hill Photography. Marsh harrier, Gary Cox



Swan Lane & Malmesbury Rd

Your recycling, garden waste and household waste collection calendar

June 2017 - November 2017



Your collection day will change this Christmas. Please check your calendar below.

Your waste and recycling containers will be collected once a fortnight. Please remember to put your container out at the kerbside by 7am on your collection day. Please ensure your bin lid is closed and do not leave any household waste next to your bin for collection.

Household waste will be collected on:



June 2017 5, 19	July 2017 3, 17, 31	August 2017 14, 28	September 2017 11, 25
October 2017 9, 23	November 2017 6, 20		

Garden waste (chargeable) will be collected on:



June 2017 12, 26	July 2017 10, 24	August 2017 7, 21	September 2017 4, 18
October 2017 2, 16, 30	November 2017 13, 27		

Plastic bottle and card recycling will be collected on:



June 2017 12, 26	July 2017 10, 24	August 2017 7, 21	September 2017 4, 18
October 2017 2, 16, 30	November 2017 13, 27		

Black box recycling will be collected on:



June 2017 13, 27	July 2017 11, 25	August 2017 8, 22	September 2017 5, 19
October 2017 3, 17, 31	November 2017 14, 28		

Are you struggling with your bin or do you need more information about your waste and recycling collections? Visit www.wiltshire.gov.uk or telephone **0300 456 0102**.

Wiltshire Council
Where everybody matters

Hillside & Ashton Road

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Wiltshire Council
Where everybody matters

If you know of any new residents who would like a paper copy of this welcome pack please contact a member of the parish council or:

Cllr Anthony Beechey

**21 Hillside
The Leigh**

ant9007@hotmail.co.uk