

Gatwick Stream Biodiversity Area

Gatwick Airport works with Gatwick Greenspace Partnership to manage this area for wildlife

Gatwick Stream flood attenuation and grasslands

This site is part of the Upper Mole flood attenuation scheme, helping to prevent flooding in areas further downstream. During extreme flooding events, the control gates can be lowered so that low-lying grassland areas collect the excess water, gradually draining down once the wet weather has passed.

As part of the scheme, the main channel of the Gatwick Stream was enhanced with naturalistic river features such as pools, fast flowing areas and native wetland plants. 30 acres of grassland has also been re-seeded with a native wildflower meadow mix, providing an important nectar source for pollinators.



Grey Wagtail
(*Motacilla cinerea*)

This slim and graceful bird has a blue grey back with yellow underside. Quick moving, they are constantly flicking their long tails and bustling about near water.



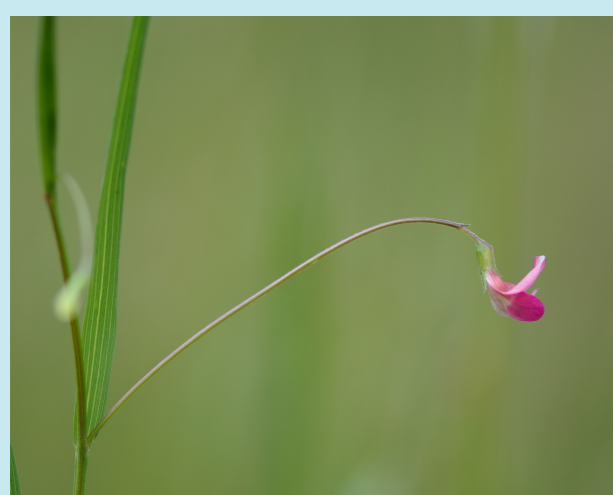
Stone Loach
(*Barbatula barbatula*)

A beautiful, slender little fish which partly burrows into the bottom of the river, blending in with its surroundings. It is mostly active at night, feeding on the small insect larvae which it detects using sensitive barbels around its mouth.



Meadowsweet
(*Filipendula ulmaria*)

An aromatic wetland plant, the attractive clusters of tiny white flowers provide pollen for many flying insects.



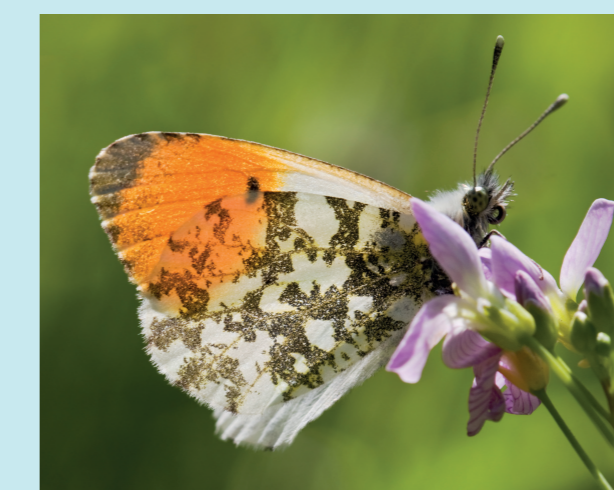
Grass Vetchling
(*Lathyrus nissolia*)

This tall, delicate plant is part of the pea family, but its long, pointed leaves look very grass-like. The tiny crimson-pink flowers give it away though and these can be seen from May through to July.



Little Owl
(*Athene noctua*)

These small and charismatic birds are mainly active at dawn and dusk, preferring to roost in large mature Oaks such as these in our grasslands. Their diet is quite varied, from invertebrates such as worms, slugs and beetles, to small mammals and occasionally small birds.



Orange-tip Butterfly
(*Anthocharis cardamines*)

The males are unmistakable with their bright orange wing tips, but when they land up look out for the beautiful mottled green of the underwing. They love Cuckooflower and Garlic Mustard best.



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