

Second National Meadows conference – mini report

The second national Meadows conference on August 15th in Bath attracted over 125 delegates. We were very fortunate to have the event filmed by Nigel Smith www.supermotion.co.uk

Mini film

- <https://wildseed.co.uk/national-meadows-conference-2025-hosted-by-emorsgate-seeds/>

See link here to all speakers

- <https://vimeo.com/showcase/11854410>

Feedback

Themes from feedback forms – what delegates valued

- Gaining new knowledge
- Inspiration to do more for meadow protection
- Networking & hearing what was happening in other parts of the country
- Making new contacts

Almost everyone gave the event the top score of 5 and said the sessions were either very valuable or valuable and everyone wants to attend the next conference in 2026!

Suggestions for improvements

- More time for Q&A after the presentation sessions
- Name badges to contain organisation details
- Step by step guide for new landowners considering restoration towards more flower rich grass land *(This will be on Marches Meadow Group website shortly)*
- Science based talks
- Move the venue around the Country *(Planning to do this)*
- After conference get together *(watch this space!)*

Future subject matter suggestions

- Entomology insect / plant relationships
- Meadow Fungi & hedgerows
- Climate impact / mitigation– drought tolerant plants
- Importance of gardens and influencing the public
- Carbon Sequestration within Meadows
- Latest research
- Nurturing new groups & expertise assistance to help with the procedure for grant applications, qualification needed for financial help in establishing meadows
- Management of smaller meadows where grazing is not possible

Conference impact

Delegates said the conference was inspiring and gave people confidence to talk about the importance of meadows to others. People valued the new connections made and the opportunity to develop new partnerships.

Lots of very positive comments received - EVERYONE said they enjoyed the day

About the Hosts

Emorsgate Seeds, <https://wildseed.co.uk/>

In conjunction with **Middle Marches Community Land Trust** and **Marches Meadow Group** welcomed ecologists, land managers, researchers, and meadow enthusiasts to our farm near Bath for the second annual National Meadows Conference. The films capture a day dedicated to the creation, restoration, and long-term management of wild flower meadows.

Highlights included expert talks guided field walk, scything and machinery demonstrations and valuable collaboration and networking. As one of the UK's leading suppliers of wild flower and grass seed, Emorsgate Seeds is committed to supporting conservation through research, expertise, and high-quality native seed.

The Meadows Conference reflected our mission to share knowledge and strengthen the community of people working to restore these important habitats.

Marches Meadow Group <https://www.marchesmeadowgroup.com/>

Are a growing group of meadow enthusiasts established in 2015 living on both sides of the Welsh Marches in Shropshire and Powys. We are interested in the management and conservation of wildflower rich hay meadows of all sizes from patches of lawn upwards. We promote the conservation, protection and enhancement of species-rich hay meadows, grasslands and unimproved pastures. We have over 150 members, some of whom own meadows ranging from small lawns to large fields.

In 2024 we launched in partnership with Middle Marches Community Land Trust and a grant from the Shropshire Hills Landscape TRUST the FIRST national meadows conference.

The details and conference talks are here <https://www.marchesmeadowgroup.com/meadows-conference-2024>

Middle Marches Community Land Trust <https://middlemarchescommunitylandtrust.org.uk/>

The Middle Marches Community Land Trust is owned and managed by local people to protect, conserve, restore and enhance our environment through the stewardship of land. We are acquiring land and working with communities to create stepping stones for nature, running conferences and events, working in partnership with organisations and landholders and acting as an advice hub.

We have recently been featured in the Guardian

Country diary: The sight – and smell – of a habitat success story

The Marches, Shropshire:

The wonderful Stiperstones nature reserve now includes two sites from a community organisation, with a welcome focus on restoration, not just protection.

“This is nature restoration based on the “Lawton principles” of bigger, better, more and joined-up habitats, making them resilient ecological networks. Here, we’re celebrating in particular the inclusion of the Middle Marches Community Land Trust’s new sites at Minsterley Meadows – which hold 5,000 green-winged orchids, and Norbury Hill, a crucial stepping stone between the upland heaths of the Stiperstones and the Long Mynd – [in the Stiperstones NNR](#). A remarkable achievement for a [community organisation](#).

Read the full story <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/aug/28/country-diary-the-sight-and-smell-of-a-habitat-success-story>