



JUNE 2023 | ISSUE 7

# GLORIOUS COTSWOLD GRASSLANDS

PROJECT NEWSLETTER



## Events coming up soon

We have a few events planned over the next couple of months, with all profits being used to fund future wildflower grassland restoration in the Cotswolds-please use the links to book if you'd like to join us:

**19th June** - Equine Workshop at FarmEd, Shipton-under-Wychwood. [Book places here.](#)

**26th June** - Wildflower ID training day at Whittington Lodge Farm, Cheltenham. [Book tickets here.](#)

**1st July** - National Meadows Day walk and lunch at Abbey Farm, Cirencester. [More info click here.](#)



*Horses grazing wildflower pasture*



*Fly orchid*



*Wildflower meadow in full bloom*

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# Windrush Floodplain Meadow project

This year we are working with the North-East Farm Cluster Group, FWAG and the Floodplain Meadows Partnership on a project funded by the Farming in Protected Landscapes grant scheme to carry out grassland assessments along the River Windrush from its source all the way to Witney. The area around Bourton is already a hotspot for the rare 'MG4 floodplain meadow', for example at Greystones Farm and the Coronation Meadow near Stow, but the project hopes to identify suitable restoration sites and use locally collected seed to extend and join up this fantastic habitat.



*An example of MG4 floodplain meadow*

## Introducing Lorna

Hello, I'm Lorna, the newest member of the Glorious Cotswold Grasslands team. I am delighted to have joined the team as the Biodiversity Net Gain Programme Officer, leading on the delivery of this three year project to create and restore wildflower grasslands in the Cotswolds.

For this programme, we are able to offer support with the initial work to prepare and overseed the grasslands. I'm very much looking forward to when the seed harvesting operations can begin, and Harvey and I will be able to run two brush seed harvesters this summer, meaning there should be additional volunteering opportunities.

Crucially with this project, we are looking to safeguard these meadows for the future - by also providing management payments for 30 years to support the landowner to graze or cut the meadows for hay in the long term. The end result should be some really special, well managed and fully established wildflower grasslands. If you have space for a wildflower meadow on your land, or know someone who might be interested please do get in touch!



*Lorna Baggett*

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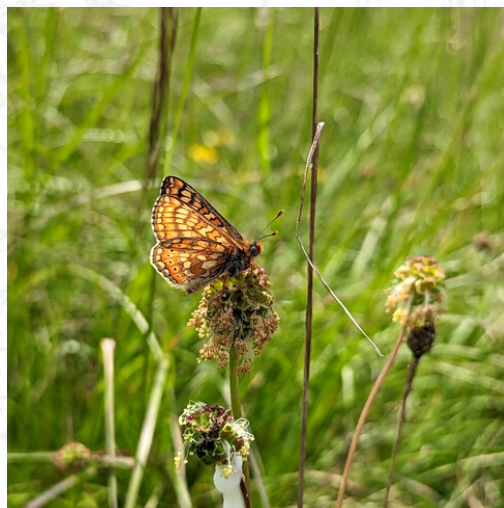
# Making a home for...

## The Marsh Fritillary butterfly

Our Cotswold grasslands are home to the marsh fritillary butterfly, which is threatened not just in the UK but across Europe, making it especially important to protect.

It is found in open grassland habitats, mostly either marshy grassland or on south-facing limestone slopes, where its larval foodplant Devil's-bit-scabious is found. The marsh fritillary forms colonies in small patches of habitat, rarely flying more than 100m, although some individuals disperse further to colonise new sites and other areas of less suitable habitat. Between years the population size can fluctuate drastically, and even go locally extinct, and so they require large areas of connected habitat for its population structures to persist in the long term.

We know that marsh fritillary are surviving in the Stroud valleys and the Cotswold scarp and we hope that our work to create a network of species rich grasslands across the Cotswolds will create more opportunities for the Marsh fritillary butterfly!



*Marsh fritillary*

### **If you would like to contact the Glorious Cotswold Grasslands team:**

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