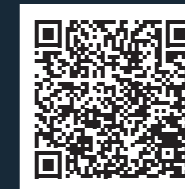


What you might see in the...

# Meadows

In the last 100 years the UK has lost 97% of its natural and hay meadows. These biologically rich habitats can be packed with hundreds of plant species and provide for huge numbers of invertebrates. Did you know the plant 'birds foot trefoil' can be food for 130 species of invertebrate? Meadow management is more complex than it may seem, as maintaining a diversely populated wild flower meadow takes planning, consideration and patience.



To find out more about the grounds visit the Living Campus [royalholloway.ac.uk/living-campus](http://royalholloway.ac.uk/living-campus)

## Did you know?

### Cinnabar moth

This caterpillar is a brilliant striped black and yellow, and it turns into a striking red moth. The caterpillar eats only the ragwort plant, which supplies it with a high concentration of histamines, which are used for defence. The caterpillars have irritating hairs and the moths are red to warn of danger.



### Greater knapweed

This plant has bright purple compound flowers made of lots of tiny 'florets'. It is an important nectar source for a wide range of invertebrates.



### Cowslip

The name 'cowslip' actually means 'cow slop' (pat), based on the plants' preferred habitat around cow meadows.



### Yellow rattle

Yellow rattle is also known as nature's lawn mower as it is semi-parasitic of grasses. This is an important plant in the meadows, as it reduces grass over-competition and encourages diversity of wild flower species.



### Grass vetchling

Grass vetchling is shaped to look exactly like grass, but is actually in the pea family, producing pea pods.



### Scarlet waxcap

This uncommon fungi is common in our grasslands and is a vibrant red colour.

