

Third National Meadows Conference 2026: Translating Science into Practice

Kew Wakehurst, Haywards Heath, Sussex RH17 6TN

Friday 19 & Saturday 20 June 2026

Programme: Day 1 - Friday 19 June



8.45 am Registration

9.30 am Opening Welcome: Setting the scene: Iain Parkinson, Head of Landscape and Horticulture, Kew Wakehurst

9.35 am Chair's Welcome: Dr Phil Wilkes, Nature Unlocked Lead, Kew Wakehurst

9.40am Science of Soils: Prof David Gowing, Open University Floodplain Meadows Partnership

10.10am Science of Fungi: Sean Cooch, Senior Grasslands Ecologist, Natural England

10.40 am Morning Break

11.10am Science of Seeds: Ted Chapman, UK Conservation Partnerships Co-ordinator

11.40am Science of Pollination: Dr Janine Griffiths-Lee, Nature Unlocked Pollinator Scientist, Kew Wakehurst

12.10 pm Panel Discussion

12.40 pm Lunch Break

1.40 pm London Philharmonic Orchestra and Community Access Group performance of music inspired by Wakehurst's landscape

1.55 pm Chair's Welcome: Gerry Sherwin, High Weald National Partnership, Operations Manager

2.00 pm Grassland Advocacy in Practice: Jo Riggall, Grassland Advocacy Officer, Plantlife

2.20 pm Meadow Seed Production: Olly Hewetson-Brown, Wildflower Co

2.50 pm Restoration Practice: Alison Ruyter, Area Manager Kent Wildlife Trust

3.50 pm "Flash Talks"

1. Middle Marches Community Land Trust and Marches Meadow Group: Collaboration for nature recovery, Janet Cobb and Peter Carty
2. Herefordshire Meadows Group: 10 years of supporting species rich grassland, Rory Johnson
3. Marden Wildlife and Marden Farm Cluster: Galvanising local action to create meadows, Lou Carpenter
4. Carmarthenshire Meadows Group: Big Meadow Search project - results and plant blindness, Laura Moss

4.20 pm Closing Remarks: Keith Datchler, OBE

4.30 pm Close

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Programme: Day 2 - Saturday 20 June

This half day is intended to be a more relaxed, informal, fun, networking opportunity.

8.45 am Registration

9.30 am **Welcome, setting the scene:** Iain Parkinson, Head of Landscape and Horticulture, Kew Wakehurst

9.45 am **Get into groups for walks and talks:**

1. Wildflower turf demo
2. Bloomers valley
3. Bee Safari
4. Agrifactors mini combine demo
5. Seed propagation and plug planting
6. Reading your soil
7. Read your meadow
8. Stalls

1.00 pm Close



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