

Woodland Wildflowers

A series of ID guides to help you discover more of Leicestershire's wonderful wildlife

Woodlands can be a difficult place for wildflowers. The shade cast by trees makes it hard for ground plants to get sufficient light. Many woodland wildflowers therefore flower early in the year before the trees come into leaf so March to early May are good times to visit. Other woodland wildflowers grow along rides and at the woodland edge where more dappled light is available.

When viewing online, simply click on the species name to find out more.



[Bluebell - *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*](#)

ID: To 30cm. Lilac-blue, drooping flower head. Flowers parallel-sided with curled petals. Cream anthers.

Where: Woods, hedges. Apr-June.

Similar: [Hybrid Bluebell](#) (flowers more bell-shaped)



[Red Campion – *Silene dioica*](#)

ID: To 1m. Slender. Oval leaves. Pink bulbous flowers.

Where: Woods, hedges, shady areas.

Similar: [White Campion](#) (white flowers). But beware hybrids with pink/white flowers.



[Wood Anemones – *Geum urbanum*](#)

ID: To 60cm. Yellow flowers. Rounded basal leaves, pointed leaflets up the stem. Spiky fruits. Sometimes called Herb Bennett.

Where: Woods, shady areas, gardens.

Similar: None.



[Lords and Ladies – *Arum maculatum*](#)

ID: Large arrow-shaped leaves appear in Feb. Strange creamy white 'flower' with dark drumstick centre.

Leaves later disappear leaving just a stick of red berries.

Where: Woods, hedges, shady areas.

Similar: [Italian Lords and Ladies](#) (central spike yellow)

Become a citizen scientist! If you can spot any of these species, why not submit your sighting at www.naturespot.org.uk and contribute to our scientific knowledge of local wildlife. Record data submitted by the public is vital to conservation. Simply register online then follow the guidance on the Submit Records page.

Other Leicestershire woodland wildflowers to check out:

[Wood-sorrel](#), [Primrose](#), [Snowdrop](#), [Enchanter's Nightshade](#), [Wild Garlic](#)



Lesser Celandine – *Ficaria verna*

ID: Low growing with glossy heart-shaped leaves. Yellow flowers. Flowers February-April.

Where: Woods, hedges, shady areas.

Similar: Buttercups.



Ground Ivy – *Glechoma hederacea*

ID: Low growing with heart-shaped leaves – often reddish/green. Violet/blue trumpet flowers. Mar-June

Where: Woods, hedges, shady areas.

Similar: Young nettles / dead-nettles.



Wood Anemone – *Anemone nemorosa*

ID: Low growing. Deeply-lobed leaves. White (pink-tinted) flowers. March-May.

Where: Older woodlands.

Similar: Wood-sorrel (clover leaves).



Honeysuckle – *Lonicera polycladum*

ID: Robust climber to 6m. Pink-yellow flowers are fragrant. Berries green turning red.

Where: Woods, hedges, shady areas.

Similar: None.



Herb Robert – *Geranium robertianum*

ID: Feathery leaves, often with a red flush. Hairy. Pink flowers with 5 petals. Seedhead hairy with a long beak.

Where: Woods, hedges, shady areas.

Similar: None.



Dog's Mercury – *Mercurialis perennis*

ID: To 30cm. Strap leaves. Tiny yellow flowers. Can carpet the woodland floor as the year progresses.

Where: Older woodlands. Hedges.

Similar: Enchanter's Nightshade (tiny white flowers)

Find more Leicestershire
Wildlife ID Guides at:
www.naturespot.org.uk/IDguides



**Leicestershire
County Council**

NatureSpot



NatureSpot is a registered charity – visit www.naturespot.org.uk