

Second UK Meadows Conference

# THE IMPORTANCE OF MEADOWS IN NATURE RECOVERY

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2025  
Manor Farm, Langridge, Bath, BA1 8AJ



**Booking essential!**

This is a free event and includes lunch but a donation of £25 will ensure we can hold events like this again in future. Thank you. Book your place through: [conference@middlemarchescommunitylandtrust.org.uk](mailto:conference@middlemarchescommunitylandtrust.org.uk)

Programme  
below





# THE IMPORTANCE OF MEADOWS IN NATURE RECOVERY

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2025, Manor Farm, Langridge, Bath, BA1 8AJ

## Programme

**09.15** Doors open Tea/Coffee/ Pastries

**10.00** Laurie MacIntyre, Emorsgate & Peter Carty, Chair Marches Meadow  
Group Joint Chairs: **Welcome – introduction to the day**

**10.15** Professor George Peterken OBE: **The Origins of meadows**

**10.45** Isobel Hall, Grasslands Programme Manager, Plantlife: **The role  
of Partnerships in Nature Recovery**

**11.15** Dan Merrett, Bathscape project manager: **Urban meadows**

**11.45** Dan Tuson, Natural England Farm adviser: **The East Kent Downs  
Landscape Recovery Project - creating a new generation of wildflower  
grasslands with farmers**

**12.15** Daisy Headley Conservation Projects Manager (Species Recovery),  
Bumblebee Conservation Trust: **Securing the future of the UK's  
rarest bumblebee – the Shrill Carder Bumblebee**

**12.45** Lunch

**13.45** Laurie MacInyre: **Walk, talk and networking around Emorsgate fields**

**15.30** Peter & Laurie: **Next steps**

**16.00** Close



Design & illustrations: Sarah Jameson



# THE IMPORTANCE OF MEADOWS IN NATURE RECOVERY

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2025, Manor Farm, Langridge, Bath, BA1 8AJ

## Speaker Biographies



### LAURIE MACINTYRE

Laurie is one quarter of **Emorsgate Seeds**, working alongside her sisters, father, and a dedicated team to produce over 250 species of wild flower and grass seed native to the British Isles. As a habitat and grassland advisor with a degree in Conservation Biology, she specialises in sustainable seed production, using techniques such as brush harvesting to capture local genetic diversity. Laurie has a particular interest in invertebrate communities and their role in supporting healthy, resilient grassland ecosystems.



### PETE CARTY

Chair of **Marches Meadow Group**, Pete has managed nature reserves for 40 years in Orkney, Cumbria, Sefton Coast and Seychelles and was Countryside manager for National Trust in South Shropshire where he helped to start the Stepping Stones project and several meadow projects as well as a lowland heathland restoration. He has experience of creating, restoring and managing grassland for wildlife.



### GEORGE PETERKIN

**Woodland ecologist** with the Nature Conservancy and successor bodies until 1992, then working independently, partly as nature conservation advisor to the Forestry Commission. Latterly, he has concentrated on researching and writing books in the Collins New Naturalist series (Wye Valley, 2008; Churchyard Natural History, in preparation), Bloomsbury's British Wildlife Collection (Meadows, 2013; Trees and Woodlands, 2023) and writing up the long-term study of woodland development in Lady Park Wood (2017, CABI). Initiated the Ancient Woodland Inventory in the 1970s and the Parish Grassland Project in 2001: the latter has since led to the formation of several meadows groups.



### ISOBEL HALL

Isobel was seconded to **Plantlife** to deliver an England-wide partnership project funded through Green Recovery Challenge Funds: Meadow Makers. With the end of that project in May 2022, she secured a permanent role at Plantlife as their Grasslands Programme Manager, where she oversees Plantlife's Grasslands Leadership Plan, driving forward delivery of existing areas of work and development of new programmes. She admits she is not a technical expert but has a very good overall understanding of the mechanisms of grassland restoration and delivery through working alongside specialist meadow advisers.



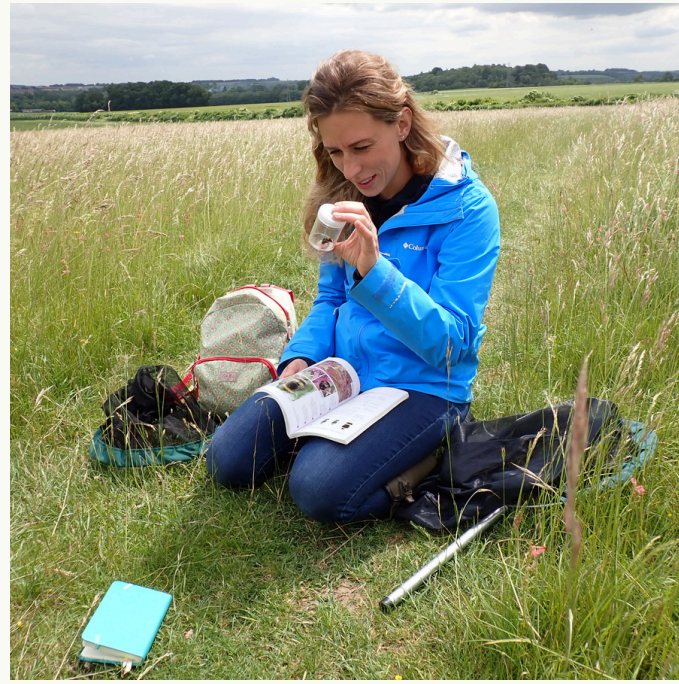
### DAN MERRETT

Dan has worked on landscape and nature conservation projects for over 25 years. An initial focus on bat conservation led to an interest in species-rich grasslands and in 2013 he went on to lead Plantlife's Coronation Meadows project overseeing the creation of 90 meadows across 60 UK counties in an initiative devised by HRH King Charles III to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. Since 2017 he has been managing the **Bathscape Landscape Partnership scheme** working with landowners and communities on a variety of conservation projects including developing further areas of species-rich grassland across his home city of Bath.



### DAN TUSON

**Natural England Farm adviser, The East Kent Downs Landscape Recovery Project** - creating a new generation of wildflower grasslands with farmers. I have been working with and advising farms on agri environment schemes in East Kent for over 25 years with a specific focus on creating a new generation of wildflower rich grasslands. Building the new grassland network year by year has enabled extensive contiguous areas of insect-rich habitat to be created and this is now reaping rewards for a range of species.



### DAISY HEADLEY

**Conservation Projects Manager (Species Recovery) for Bumblebee Conservation Trust.** Brought up on dairy farms, she has focused her career on combining her two loves of conservation and farming. Since joining the Trust in 2017, Daisy has worked on a variety of projects from creating habitat for rare and scarce species to managing the implementation of the Shril Carder Bee conservation strategy and developing projects to save this charismatic species. At home, Daisy has a small holding focusing on low-input farming using native breed sheep (Exmoor Horns) producing all grass-fed lamb boxes for local clients.

