**Dogs must be on leads when sheep are present. Please ensure you clean up after them as dog mess can cause lethal diseases in our livestock.**

**Look out for...**

**Harebell**
A delicate looking flower which is actually extremely hardy, with the ability to grow in almost any location as long as it’s dry and grassy. It’s the county flower of Dumfriesshire, Yorkshire, and Antrim in Northern Ireland - where it’s called ‘the goblin’s thimble’. It’s association with magic doesn’t end there, as it’s also known as ‘witch’s bells’ and ‘old man’s bells’ - the old man being the Devil! Harebells can be found growing in small clumps on the Iron Age hillfort between July and September.

**Listen out for...**

**Skylarks**
One of the most iconic sounds of the Downs in summer, the Skylark’s song is a long, unbroken bubbling warble. Sung by the male whilst hovering 50-100m high, you’ll often see them rising and falling. Despite what appears to be a healthy population here, Skylarks are on the Red List of threatened species, where changes in farming practices and the decline in habitat has led to a 90% decline in just 30 years.

**Grazing is important for chalk grassland restoration. It helps to reduce the nutrients in the soil left from agriculture, allowing more diverse species to grow and not be out-competed by vigorous grasses**

**Look out for the deep-blue heads of our county flower from July**

**Round-headed Rampion, or ‘Pride of Sussex’, grows almost exclusively on the chalk grassland of the South Downs.**

**Look out for...**

**Marbled White butterflies**
A relatively large black and white butterfly, unlikely to be mistaken for any other. They prefer pink and blue flowers such as Wild Marjoram, Field Scabious, thistles and knapweed - which is why they’ll be seen here in abundance during the summer months. In the evenings, adults can be seen roosting on grass stems.

**Silver-spotted Skipper butterfly on Devil’s-bit Scabious**

**© Hugh Clark FRPS**
Ditching Beacon lies on the edge of Brighton and one mile from the village of Ditchling. Note: the National Trust car park is Pay & Display. A weekend bus service (79) runs from Brighton - see buses.co.uk. The nearest postcode is BN6 8ZB
Grid reference: TQ332129

Help us with our work
Becoming a member of Sussex Wildlife Trust is a great way to ensure we can continue to provide fantastic habitats for wildlife - find out more about our work, volunteering or how you can support us by visiting:

www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk
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