

Church Lane Local Nature Reserve

Reserve Area: 3.25 Hectares

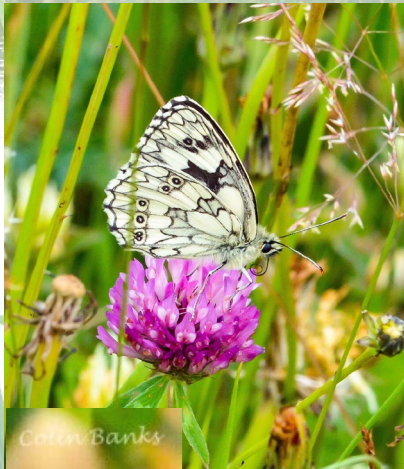
Access: This site can only be accessed via public footpaths. Footpath number 41 runs alongside North Weald Brook along the Eastern edge of the site, and Footpath number 43 runs parallel with the Western boundary.

Parking: There is no parking on site, the closest parking is a small car park on Vicarage Lane West to the North of the site opposite the village hall in front of St Andrews Church. Then exit Car park on your left, walk a small section along road to fingerpost. Walk along farm field to site you will see a yellow gate, Church Lane access is by walk round next to double gates.

What3words; zones.enter.basket **Grid Ref:** TL39530513

LNR declaration: 2002

Wildlife Site Designation: Ep118 1999



Marbled White Butterfly



Devils-bit Scabious



Brown Argus Butterfly

Site Description: Created primarily as a flood alleviation project in 1989 to protect the village of North Weald from flooding. The banks surrounding the large stream fed pond at the centre of the site can hold a massive 35 million litres of water in the event of a flood. These banks and areas of water also provide great habitat for wildlife such as amphibians, dragonflies, butterflies and birds as well as the wide variety of flowers and grasses that can now be found here.

Site Management: Church Lane Flood Meadows is managed as a wildflower meadow. It is cut annually to prevent invasive grasses from out competing the wildflowers. The willow around the pond in the centre of the site is coppiced on rotation (different sections are cut every 2 to 3 years). The stems are used as stakes and binders for hedgelaying in the winter.

Seasonal: Butterflies including Marbled White and Brown Argus seen May – September. Best time to see Devils-bit Scabious in full bloom August - September