

Worcestershire Wildlife Trust Malvern Group

James Hitchcock: The Work of the Herefordshire Wildlife Trust

James gave us a very interesting lecture on the work of our close neighbour, the Herefordshire Wildlife Trust. HWT is a member of the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts, a federation of 47 Trusts in the British Isles. It is supported by nearly 5000 members and manages 55 nature reserves covering about 600 hectares of land. Its aim is to enhance biodiversity and create a county which is rich in wildlife, as well as offering advice to landowners and responding to planning policy documents.

The wildlife of the reserves includes otters, dormice, pearl-bordered fritillary and wood white butterflies and many species of orchid. Queenswood Country Park (an SSSI) is one of the most visited attractions in Herefordshire; soon the headquarters of HWT will be moving there. Nearby Bodenham Lake is an important overwintering and breeding area for birds and other aquatic wildlife. Lugg Meadows are the most important surviving Lammas meadows in the UK, famed for fritillaries in spring.