

Michael JS Liley. Bsc(Hons). C&G cert in Bio-Survey

Resident in Stourbridge for 9 years with partner Sue. Previously lived in Hartlebury.

Retired former Conservation Officer & ecologist, botanist, land management specialist with the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust: 20 years+ service; previously worked on rivers site designations with English Nature. Also worked for ADAS Welsh Office and the Nature Conservancy Council in Scotland.

With a recent 2-decade track record as part of my work of helping to conserve species-rich grasslands across Worcestershire and protect them from damage and destruction but also working closely with landowners across Worcestershire and the West Midlands, through the system of agri-environment grant schemes to promote positive management of these habitats, I am passionate about saving our wildflower meadows.

We have lost a horrifying 97% (7.5 million acres!) of such habitats in Great Britain since the 1930s-40s, with all the repercussions for wildlife, pollinating insects and indeed the associated reduction in environmental benefits we ecologists refer to as “Ecosystem Services” – this means carbon storage (climatic change, if not), soil storage (loss/erosion, if destroyed), water storage (increased flood risk without..).

*Let’s not repeat this cataclysm by losing this valuable site (already designated by Dudley council!) which has its own unique flora and which historical records show has remained more or less undisturbed since the 18th century. Let’s see it conserved as a pasture, perpetuated by traditional cycles of grazing and some mowing, and maintained for environmental education and local people’s future health and well-being - rather than trashed and buried beneath houses roads tarmac and concrete. **Protect-Conserve-Manage.***