

Why do we want: Nettles?

Not a popular native wildflower but Stinging Nettles are very useful plants for wildlife.



They often harbour populations of aphids, which are great food for Ladybirds and small birds such as Blue Tits.



Our declining butterfly numbers are a worry. Nettles are the food plant of the caterpillars of Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock, Comma and Red Admiral butterflies.



Comma

Over 40 species of invertebrate live and feed on nettles which are protected from grazing animals by their stinging hairs.



Small Tortoiseshell caterpillars

In the churchyard, a corner is given over to a good sized nettle patch. Nettles are a very valuable addition to any wildlife area and play an important part in increasing biodiversity.