



## Identify 100 Species – Woodland Wildflowers

10 species you are likely to find in Leicestershire and Rutland

How easy is it to identify?

Easy



Care needed



Target species

### Red Campion – *Silene dioica* ●

**ID:** To 1m. Upright. Oval hairy leaves. Pink bulbous flowers with 5 petals, each deeply notched.

**Similar species:** White Campion (white flowers). But beware hybrids with pink/white flowers.

**Where to look:** Woods, hedges, shady areas.

**About:** Sometimes called 'Adder's Flower'. It is an important nectar source for insects.

**Recording:** Photo preferred.



### Lords and Ladies – *Arum maculatum* ●

**ID:** Large arrow-shaped leaves appear in Feb. Strange creamy white 'flower' with dark drumstick centre. Leaves later disappear leaving just a stick of red berries.

**Similar species:** Italian Lords and Ladies (yellow spathe)

**Where to look:** Woods, hedges, shady areas.

**About:** Also called Cuckoo-pint. The flower smells of rotting meat to attract pollinating flies. These are trapped in the flower base by hairs, usually overnight, which then die back to release them.

**Recording:** Photo preferred.



### Lesser Celandine – *Ficaria verna* ●

**ID:** Low growing with glossy heart-shaped leaves. Yellow flowers. Flowers February-April.

**Similar species:** Buttercups.

**Where to look:** Woods, hedges, damp and shady areas.

**About:** As one of the first Spring flowers to bloom it is an important nectar source for early emerging insects, such as queen bumblebees.

**Recording:** Photo preferred.



### Other woodland wildflowers in Leicestershire to check out:

Wood-sorrel, Primrose, Snowdrop, Enchanter's Nightshade, Wild Garlic

### Bluebell - *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* ●

**ID:** To 30cm. Narrow leaves. Lilac-blue, drooping flower head. Flowers parallel-sided with curled petals. Creamy-white anthers.

**Similar species:** Hybrid Bluebell (flowers more bell-shaped)

**Where to look:** Woods, hedges. Apr-June.

**About:** The UK has more Bluebell woods than anywhere else, but these are under threat from hybridisation with the Spanish Bluebell – an escaped garden plant. The hybrids are now widespread.

**Recording:** Photo required (of flowers).



To find out more about the [100 Species Challenge](#), how to submit records of your sightings and lots more about the wildlife of Leicestershire and Rutland, visit [www.naturespot.org.uk](http://www.naturespot.org.uk).

### Wood Avens – *Geum urbanum* ●

**ID:** To 60cm. Yellow flowers. Rounded basal leaves, pointed leaflets up the stem. Spiky red seedheads.

**Similar species:** None.

**Where to look:** Woods, shady areas, gardens.

**About:** Also called Herb Bennett. The seedheads are covered in tiny hooks, like velcro, that catches on passing animals to aid dispersal.

**Recording:** Photo preferred.



### Ground Ivy – *Glechoma hederacea* ●

**ID:** Low growing with heart-shaped leaves – often reddish/green. Violet/blue trumpet flowers in March – June.

**Similar species:** Young nettles / dead-nettles.

**Where to look:** Woods, hedges, shady areas.

**About:** The leaves are evergreen so the plant can be found all year round. It spreads by sending out runners which then root.

**Recording:** Photo preferred.



### Wood Anemone – *Anemone nemorosa* ●

**ID:** Low growing. Deeply-lobed leaves. White (pink-tinted) flowers. March-May.

**Similar species:** [Wood-sorrel](#) (clover leaves).

**Where to look:** Older woodlands.

**About:** Slow-growing and not able to disperse widely, it is one of the species used as an indicator of ancient woodland.

**Recording:** Photo preferred.



### Honeysuckle – *Lonicera polyclenum* ●

**ID:** Robust climber to 6m. Pink-yellow flowers are fragrant. Berries green turning red.

**Similar species:** None.

**Where to look:** Woods, hedges, shady areas.

**About:** The strong fragrance helps to attract nocturnal moths as pollinators. Also used by many insects, mammals and birds.

**Recording:** Photo preferred.



### Herb Robert – *Geranium robertianum* ●

**ID:** Feathery leaves, often with a red flush. Hairy. Pink flowers with 5 petals. Seedhead hairy with a long beak. Leaves have a strong, mousy smell.

**Similar species:** None.

**Where to look:** Woods, hedges, shady areas.

**About:** Has been used to treat nosebleeds, headaches, tummy upsets, to help heal wounds, and even as a mosquito repellent.

**Recording:** Photo preferred.



### Dog's Mercury – *Mercurialis perennis* ●

**ID:** To 30cm. Broad strap-shaped leaves. Tiny yellow flowers Feb-Apr. Can carpet the woodland floor as the year progresses.

**Similar species:** [Enchanter's Nightshade](#)

**Where to look:** Older woodlands. Hedges.

**About:** Can spread rapidly via its underground rhizomes, shading out other plants. It is poisonous so shouldn't be ingested!

**Recording:** Photo required.

