

The pollination process

1. Pollen from stamens sticks to a bee as it visits the flower to collect food.

Pollen sack

2. The bee travels to another plant of the same type.

3. Pollen from the bee is deposited onto the stigma to complete pollination.

Pollination is very important to plants. They must transfer pollen from one flower to another to make a seed. Insects are perfect helpers, travelling from one flower to the next, collecting pollen and nectar as they go. They eat some of it and help to share pollen between flowers. **Good teamwork!**

Forget-me-not

It is hard to forget this beautiful, small, blue flower! We love seeing it in clumps up and down the lineside. Insects, like the small copper butterfly, with its long proboscis, enjoy drinking the nectar.

Small copper butterfly

Look for clumps of blue flowers

Common dog violets

Violets are a pretty purple colour with heart-shaped leaves. They are very important for the small pearl-bordered fritillary, as they lay their eggs on the plant and their caterpillars eat the leaves. We can see this butterfly and violets north of Levisham Station all the way to Fen Bog.

Small pearl-bordered fritillary

Look for small, purple flowers

Butterfly anatomy

Proboscis is a fabulous word for an insect's mouth. It is more like a long straw!

Compound eyes

Head

Antennae

Proboscis

Legs

Abdomen

Forewing

Hindwing

As you can see, each insect has its own favourite flowers and grasses. This is why it is so important to protect our biodiversity. Biodiversity is the variety of life, all the different plants and animals that live on our lineside. We love it when our lineside buzzes!



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

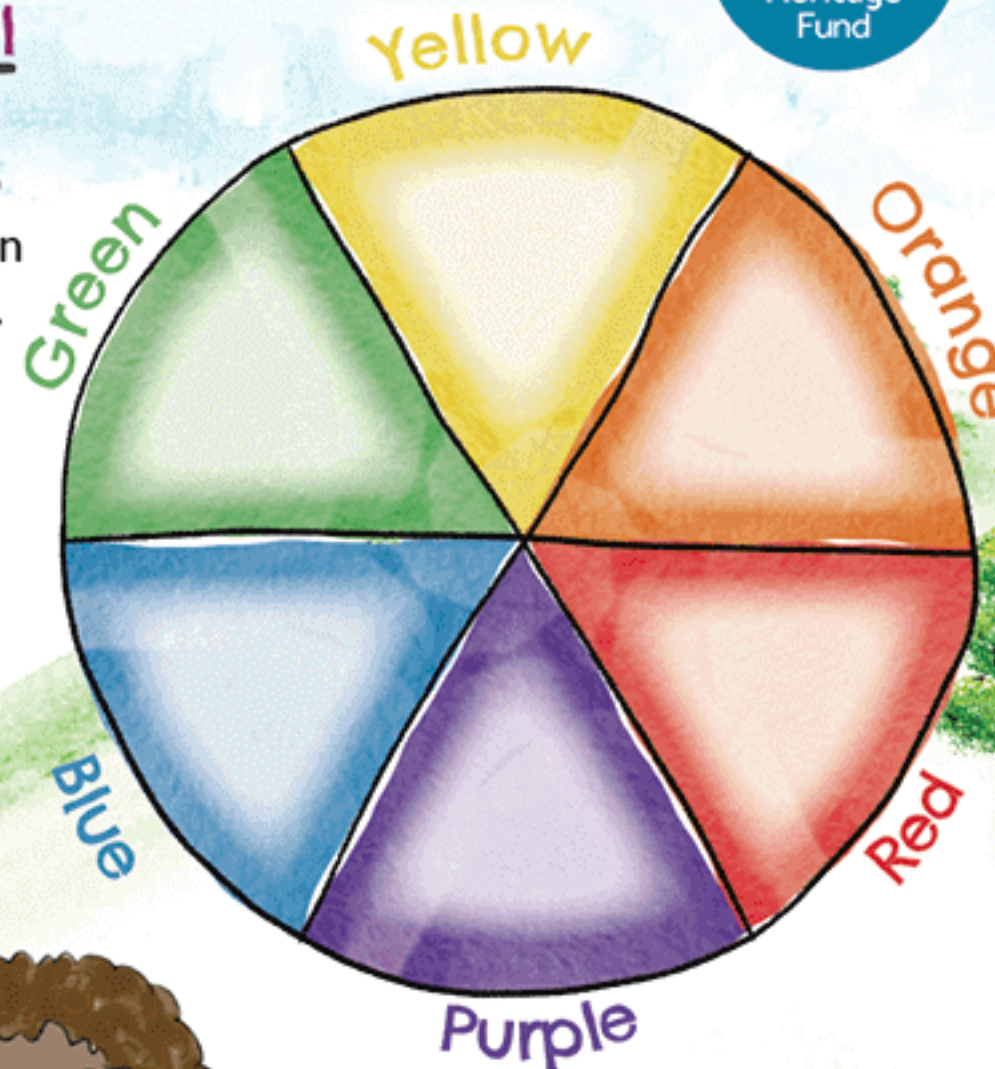
Colour Heroes Ltd © 2023 www.colourheroes.com

Railway flowers & their visitors



Colour wheel

Write the name of a plant or flower to match the colours in the wheel opposite.



Hi, we are Kit and Chloe.

We have been learning about the plants and flowers that grow on the NYMR lineside, and the insects that visit them. Each insect has favourite flowers and leaves they eat, or where they collect pollen and nectar. Let's explore the tiny world of wildflowers and their visitors on the lineside. Can you spot any of the colours from the train?



Meadowsweet

The big, fuzzy, cream-coloured flowers of meadowsweet line the railway in summer. They are sweet-smelling and lots of insects love the nectar and pollen, including the handsome fox moth and caterpillar.

Look out for tall, fuzzy, cream flowers

Check out those awesome antennae!

Fox moth and caterpillar

Flower

Umbellifers

You might recognise some umbellifers. There are a few different species, including cow parsley, hogweed and carrots! They have big clusters of tiny, white flowers with lots of nectar, close to the surface, for beetles, butterflies, flies, wasps and ants.

Sawfly

Yellow-haired sunfly

Soldier beetle

Beware! Some wild umbellifers are poisonous to humans, so never eat them.

Look out for the tall, white flowers

Bird's-foot trefoil

All along our lineside you can see the little, yellow flowers of bird's-foot trefoil. Sticky pollen and nectar, inside the flowers, is loved by butterflies and bees. The caterpillars of unusual butterflies, like the dingy skipper and common blue, which live on our lineside, depend on eating the leaves.

Dingy skipper butterfly

Look out for short, yellow flowers

Common blue butterfly

Ivy

Ivy is often forgotten when people think of flowers. This is probably because it doesn't have flowers until September and the flowers are small. They may be tiny, but the flowers are packed with nectar, which is easy to reach. It is a much welcome drink at the end of the summer for lots of insects, and provides berries for birds and mammals through early winter. Thanks ivy!

Look on trees and walls

Blackbird

Ivy flower

Yorkshire fog

Yorkshire fog is one of our common grasses and we leave it to grow long, as it is super important. Insects, like the speckled wood and small skipper butterflies, both rely on Yorkshire fog as their food plant.

Look in the meadows and fields

Speckled wood butterfly

In June, the tiny, little flowers of Yorkshire fog are particularly pretty with purple, bobbing tops.

Small skipper butterfly

Red campion

The lovely pink of red campion can be seen from May to September.

Their smell in the evening attracts moths, and they are an important food to these night-flying insects.

The flower is quite deep and, to get to the lovely nectar, only insects and moths with a long proboscis can reach. The handsome, large, elephant hawk-moth enjoys feeding on red campion.

Look amongst the grasses

Elephant hawk-moth