Get to know Draycott Sleights Nature Reserve

Here are just a few of the flower species you may be able to spot as you explore the reserve:

**Cowslip**

**When to see it:** Late spring to early summer

**What to look for:** Winkled, toothed leaves, with nodding flowers that are narrower than those of the closely related primrose

**Size:** 5 to 30 cm

**Did you know?:** Cowslips are visited by insects with long tongues such as bees and moths, which can collect the nectar from the bottom of the petal tube

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**Eyebright**

**When to see it:** Summer

**What to look for:** Glossy green leaves with small, white flowers with an egg-yolk coloured blotch and thin purple lines on the lower lip

**Size:** 10 to 20 cm

**Did you know?:** Eyebright is so-called because of the resemblance of the flowers to bright eyes. It was used in the 18th century to help cure poor eyesight and is still used in eye treatments today

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**Wild marjoram**

**When to see it:** Summer to early autumn

**What to look for:** Tall, stiff, upright plant with leaves in opposite pairs and purply-pink flowers

**Size:** Up to 80 cm

**Did you know?:** The leaves contain thymol, an aromatic oil that has antiseptic and preservative qualities

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**Wild thyme**

**When to see it:** Late spring to summer

**What to look for:** Often found growing on rock outcrops and as part of dense turf, where it forms mats of fragrant leaves, woody stalks and pink flowers

**Size:** Low-growing (less than 10 cm), but far-creeping

**Did you know?:** The leaves contain thymol, an aromatic oil that has antiseptic and preservative qualities

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**Agrimony**

**When to see it:** Summer to early autumn

**What to look out for:** Summer to early autumn

**What to look out for:** Frond-like leaves, whorls of yellow flowers with trailing stems of leaves made up of pairs of large leaves with pairs of smaller leaves in between, with tall spikes of flowers and fruits

**Size:** Up to 100 cm

**Did you know?:** The fruit, which forms after flowering, has hooked spines that catch on the fur of passing animals or the clothes of walkers, dispersing the seed

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**Horseshoe vetch**

**When to see it:** Late spring to summer

**What to look out for:** Horseshoe vetch pods ripen they break up into several horseshoe-shaped segments, which give the plant its name

**Size:** 5 to 20 cm

**Did you know?:** The seed pods ripen they break up into several horseshoe-shaped segments, which give the plant its name

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**Bee orchid**

**When to see it:** Summer

**What to look out for:** Pink flowers with a lower lip that resembles a bumblebee

**Size:** 10 to 40 cm

**Did you know?:** This fascinating plant attracts male bumblebees that see the lower lip of the flower as a female bumblebee and try to mate with it, which causes pollen to collect on their bodies that is transferred to other plants as they try again

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