

Bluebells emerging at Winkworth Arboretum

A true herald of the arrival of spring, the bluebells at Winkworth Arboretum have started to make an appearance. While just a few spots of their characteristic violet-blue flowers are currently visible, it won't be long before these precious plants will be carpeting the arboretum – a sight that Winkworth is famous for.

Whilst they can't predict exactly when they'll be at their best, depending on the weather, there is a potential for the flowers to be out in the second half of the April. With their appearance fleeting, they're advising visitors to follow them on social media where they will be updating people on their progress and when they'll be at their best.

Speaking about the bluebells, Winkworth's Head Gardener, Graham Alderton says:

"Bluebells emerge early in the year to make the most of the light before the tree canopy closes and the forest floor becomes shaded. Insects that are out early such as butterflies and hoverflies feed on the nectar of this important and iconic plant. The UK is home to about 50% of the world's population and it is under threat from hybridisation and habitat destruction, we take great pride in our ever-expanding carpet of vibrant, sweet-smelling wildflowers."

With its winding woodland paths through the swathes of bluebells, it offers a truly immersive experience with excellent photo opportunities. They are hoping that visitors will assist on the progress of the bluebells by sharing their photos using the hashtags [#BluebellWatch](#) and [#WinkworthArboretum](#).

A visit to Winkworth presents one of the final chances to

explore the arboretum before its new visitor centre opens this summer. Visitors will soon have the pleasure of indulging in the brand-new café, complete with indoor seating, browsing the National Trust shop, and utilising the upgraded restroom facilities, including a Changing Places facility. Additionally, a new car park equipped with EV charging stations will be available (parking charges will apply when the new visitor centre opens).