

# Farm joins trial to boost nature

**A FARM** has been chosen to take part in a national trial studying how farmers can help save endangered species.

The Co-operative Farms estate, in Stoughton, is aiming to create areas to boost numbers of bees, hoverflies and butterflies.

Strips of meadow with a mix of wildflowers will be created between fields.

Volunteers from Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust will survey the populations.

Simon Bentley, director of the trust, said: "Nature needs all the help it can get and the Habitat Heroes project at Stoughton should provide a much-needed boost to farmland wildlife such as insects and birds."

Many pollinating species have been in decline since the 1970s, largely due to a fall in wildflower meadows.

Up to 80 per cent of British plant species, including crops such as oilseed rape, beans, orchard and soft fruit, are dependent on pollinators.

Cereals, rapeseed and spring beans are produced at the Stoughton estate, plus honey.