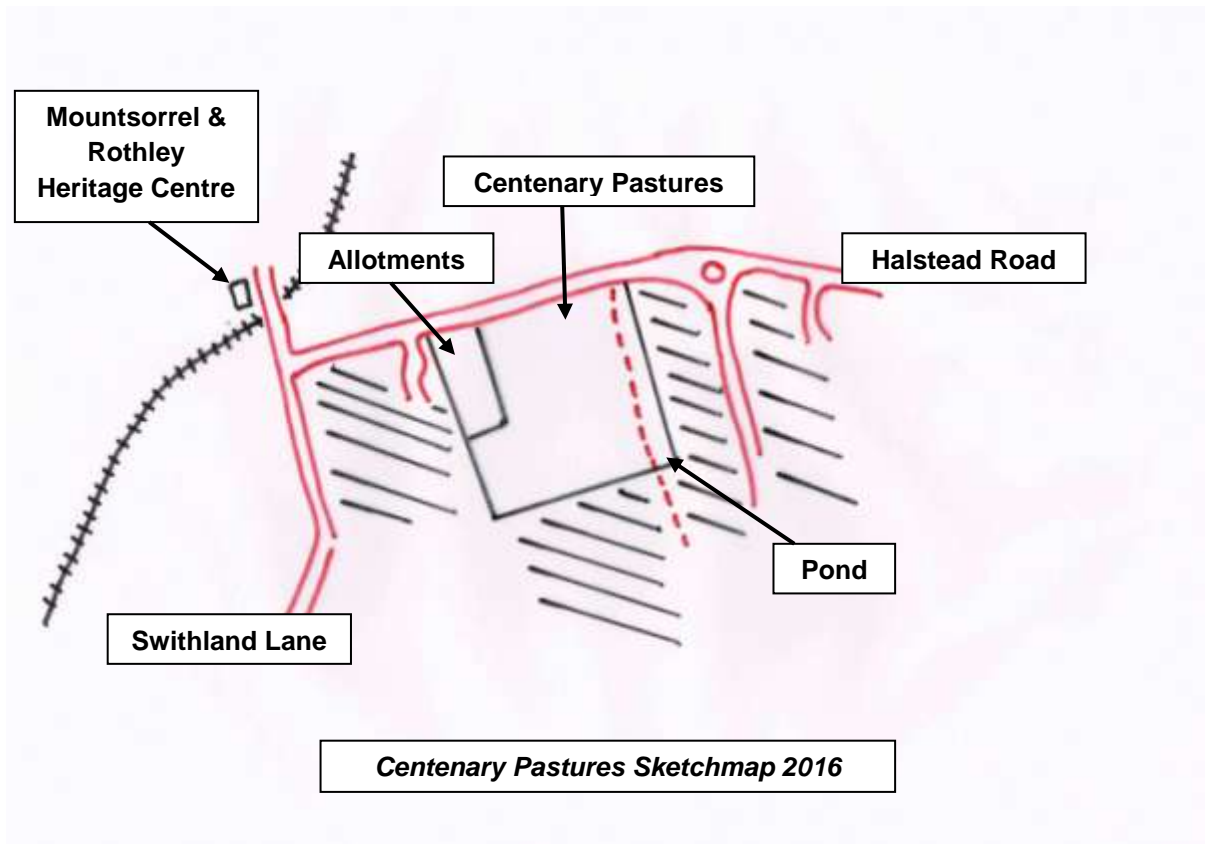


Mountsorrel Wildlife Sites 2016

Centenary Pastures Local Nature Reserve



Named to mark the centenary of the Parish Council in 1994 and declared a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) in 2002 by Charnwood Borough Council who own the site. The site is also recorded by Charnwood Borough Council as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC, now termed Local Wildlife Site. CBC Reference CBCW 5714)



Rigg and Furrow at the south end of the site 2016

The site is an unimproved flower rich pasture with rigg and furrow and is managed primarily for wildlife, to a plan prepared by the Charnwood Wildlife Project. This

consists of light summer grazing by cattle to keep the vigorous grasses in check and to stop scrub and trees establishing themselves. More delicate plants thrive and as the cattle graze some areas more than others a variety of the plants flower, set seed and create tussocks in the grass which are important for insects to burrow and hibernate in.



Centenary Pasture – grazing 2011

Rigg and furrow caused by medieval ploughing with oxen, can still be seen showing that the grassland established here predates the enclosures in the 18th Century. The wide variety of plants to be found shows that the field has not been improved or treated with herbicides, which dramatically increases its value to wildlife.

The natural granite outcrop in the centre of the field is rare in our area due to quarrying. The thin soil over the outcrop dries quickly during the summer and encourages vegetation of a type specifically adapted to these conditions by flowering and setting seed early in the year. On the rocks themselves are lichens and mosses and nearby the tiny holes that are entrances to the burrows of mining bees who nest in thin warm soils.



Natural Granite Outcrops 2016

The Hawthorn and Buckthorn hedges that border the site have been traditionally layed to ensure fresh growth and prolong the life of the hedge. They are a significant habitat, providing cover and food for Yellowhammers and Linnets amongst others. Elsewhere in the field the Hawthorn has grown into mature trees that in autumn produce a profusion of red berries that attract the Redwings and Fieldfares.

At the south end of the site is a pond supporting amphibian life and insects acts as a food resource for birdlife. The pond does dry out in hot summers but recovers during the autumn and winter.



Centenary Pastures Pond in Summer (June 2011)



Centenary Pastures Pond in Winter (February 2016)

Species Lists¹

Plantlife

¹ Species lists are drawn from Charnwood Borough Council Wildlife Surveys and MHG Member Records

- Black knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*)
- Pignut (*Conopodium majus*)
- Lady's bedstraw (*Galium verum*)
- Autumn hawkbit (*Leontodon autumnalis*)
- Bird's-foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*)
- Burnet-saxifrage (*Pimpinella saxifraga*)
- Meadow buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*)
- Common sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*)
- Red clover (*Trifolium pratense*)
- Common bent (*Agrostis capillaris*)
- Sheep's fescue (*Festuca ovina*)
- Sheep's sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*)
- Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*)
- Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*)
- Common Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*)

Insects

- Water Beetle (*Anacaena bipustulata*)

Amphibians

- Common Frog (*Rana temporaria*)

Birds

- Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*)
- Blackbird (*Turdus merl*)
- Carrion Crow (*Corvus corone corone*)
- Jackdaw (*Corvus monedula*)
- Magpie (*Pica pica*)
- Yellowhammer (*Emberiza citronella*)
- Reed Bunting (*Emberiza schoeniclus*)
- House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)
- Linnet (*Acanthis cannabina*)
- Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*) (winter visitor)
- Fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*) (winter visitor)
- House Martin (*Delichon urbica*) (summer visitor)
- Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*) (summer visitor)

NB: Additionally given the proximity of Broad Hill the species listed there will also most likely be seen in and around Centenary Pastures.