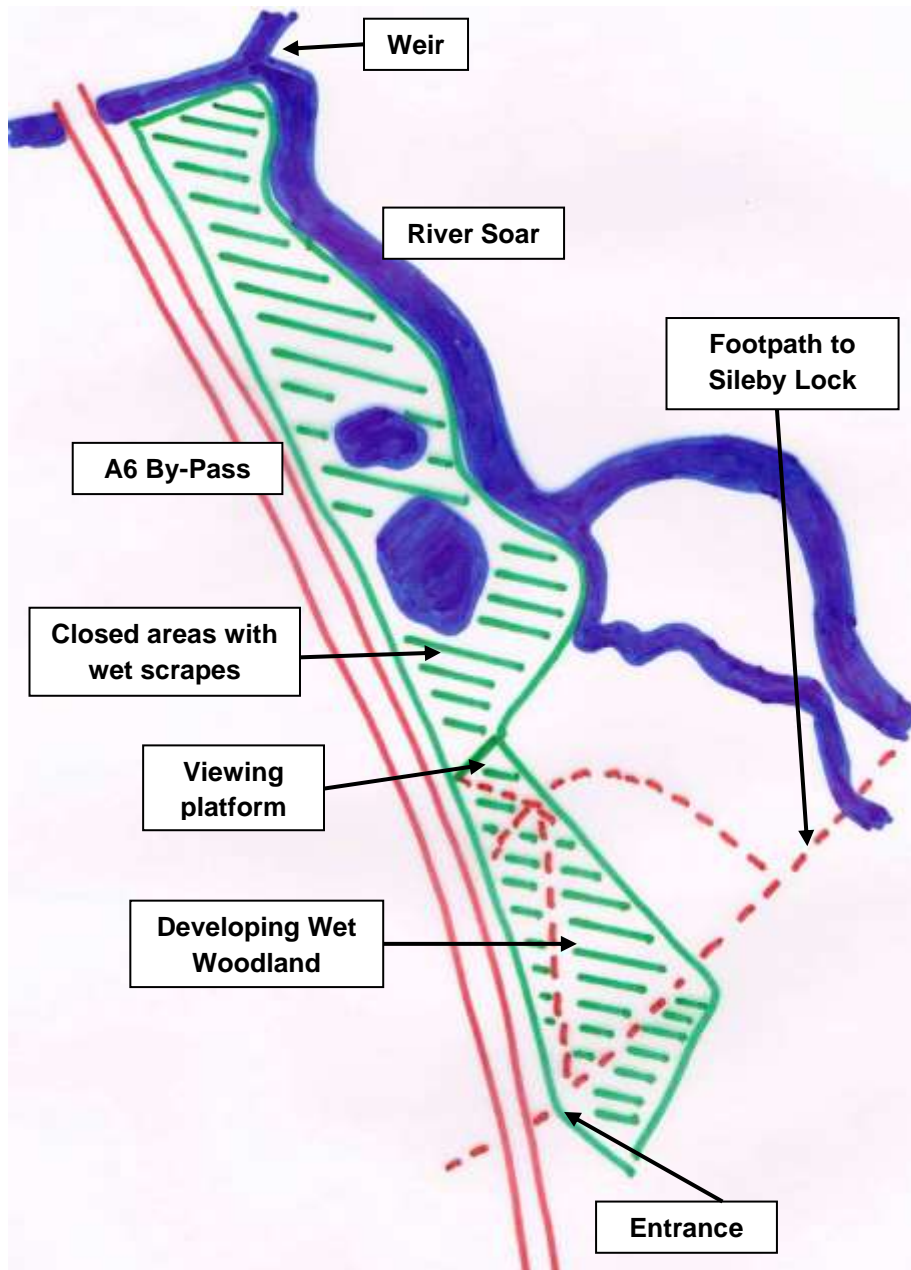


Mountsorrel Wildlife Sites 2016 - Mountsorrel Meadows



Mountsorrel Meadows is a 12.6 hectare nature reserve, containing wet woodland, shallow pools, wet grassland and marsh owned and managed by Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust (L&RWT). The Trust purchased the site in 2006 and worked on the main habitat creation work through until the end of autumn of 2007. The meadows had in the past been used as permanent grassland and grazed by cattle in common with most of the surrounding fields. Latterly however it had been used for arable crops, a last crop of maize being cut in 2004.



Mountsorrel Meadows central copse at first light - March 2009

A mix of planting and natural regeneration has allowed the creation of areas of wet woodland. In the main woodland area planting with alder trees and willow sticks (sections of cut willow stems which when pushed into the ground develop roots and grow) has taken place. Other, smaller areas of woodland have developed entirely on their own from seeds which have blown in or washed in by floodwaters.

A closed area of wet grassland and shallow wet scrapes has been designed to encourage overwintering birds and is occasionally grazed by cattle.

The Meadows now form part of the "Mountsorrel and Rothley Marshes" Reserve. This consists of 80 acres in three separate parcels of land managed by L&RWT as part of their co-ordinated plan for the "Re-greening of the Soar Valley". The second parcel of land of the Reserve within the parish is "Mountsorrel Marshes", these are owned by The Parish Council but leased to L&RWT. The third parcel is within Rothley Parish and abuts Mountsorrel Meadows adjacent to Sibley Lock.



Mountsorrel Meadows – wet scrape May 2011

The whole site is closely linked to the L&RWT Cossington Meadows Reserve which is now of national importance.

Species Lists¹

Plantlife

- *Angelica (Angelica sylvestris)*
- *Autumn hawkbit (Leontodon autumnalis)*
- *Brown sedge (Carex disticha)*
- *Common bird's-foot trefoil (Lotus corniculatus)*
- *Common sorrel (Rumex acetosa)*
- *Compact rush (Juncus conglomerates)*
- *False fox-sedge (Carex otrubae)*
- *Great Willowherb (Epilobium hirsutum)*
- *Greater bird's-foot trefoil (Lotus pedunculatus)*
- *Gipsywort (Lycopus europaeus)*
- *Hard rush (Juncus inflexus)*
- *Jointed rush (Juncus articulatus)*

¹ Species lists are drawn from Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust Surveys, Charnwood Borough Council Wildlife Surveys and MHG Member Records

- Meadow buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*)
- Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*)
- Ragged Robin (*Lychnis flos-cuculi*)
- Red Clover (*Trifolium pratense*)
- Reed Canary-Grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*)
- Soft rush (*Juncus effuses*)
- Square-Stalked St. John's-Wort (*Hypericum tetrapterum*)
- Water Mint *Mentha aquatica*)

Butterflies

- Brimstone (*Gonepteryx rhamni*)

Animals

- Rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*)
- Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*)

Reptiles

- Grass Snake (*Natrix natrix*)

Birds

- Blackbird (*Turdus merula*)
- Black-Headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*)
- Blue Tit (*Parus caeruleus*)
- Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*)
- Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*)
- Canada Goose (*Branta Canadensis*)
- Carrion Crow (*Corvus corone*)
- Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*)
- Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*)
- Common Sandpiper (*Actitis ochropus*)
- Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*)
- Coot (*Fulica atra*)
- Dunnock (*Prunella modularis*)
- Gadwall (*Anas strepera*)
- Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*)
- Great Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos major*)
- Great Tit (*Parus major*)
- Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*)
- Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*)
- Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*)
- Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*)

- Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*)
- Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*)
- Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*)
- Long-tailed Tit (*Aegithalos caudatus*)
- Magpie (*Pica pica*)
- Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)
- Meadow Pipit (*Anthus pratensis*)
- Mistle Thrush (*Turdus viscivorus*)
- Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*)
- Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*)
- Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*)
- Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*)
- Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*)
- Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*)
- Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*)
- Sparrowhawk (*Accipter nisus*)
- Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)
- Stonechat (*Saxicola torquata*)
- Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)
- Teal (*Anas crecca*)
- Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*)
- Whitethroat (*Sylvia communis*)
- Woodpigeon (*Columba palumbus*)
- Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*)