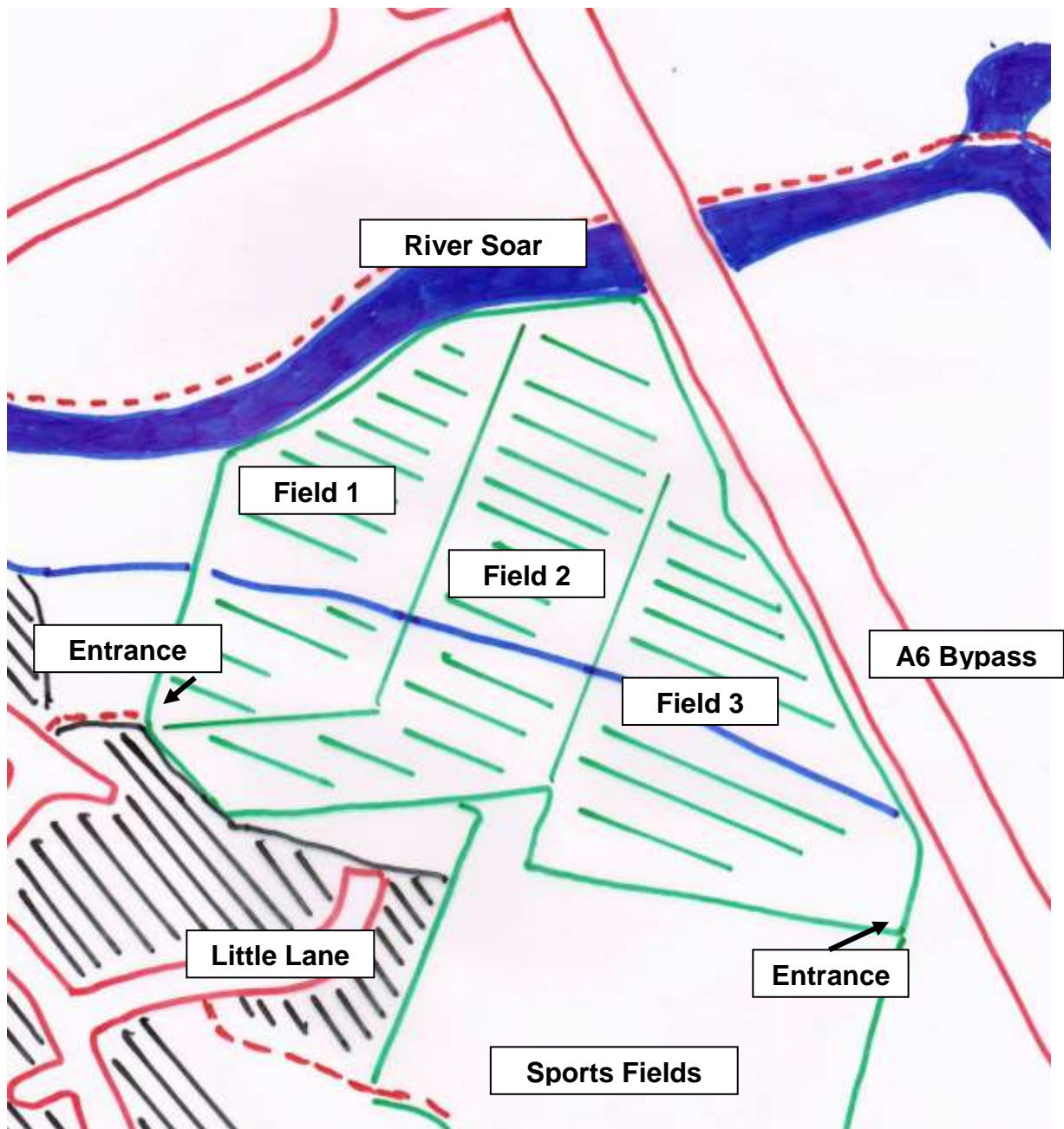


Mountsorrel Wildlife Sites 2016 – Mountsorrel Marshes



Mountsorrel Marshes are a notified Local Wildlife Site (CBC Reference CBCW 5815/1) and was surveyed by Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust (L&RWT) in 2010. It consists of three fields forming two distinct areas, marsh and wet pasture separated by a main drainage ditch.

The Marshes 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 are “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 Sileby Lock.



Mountsorrel Marshes (foreground before the A6 Bridge) in flood – February 2016

Mountsorrel Marshes are a remnant of the wetland habitats once common in the flood plain of the River Soar. The marshes have been managed in the traditional way by lightly grazing with cattle to ensure that the vegetation does not become coarse and overgrown, with only a few dominant plants outgrowing the more delicate species. Unmanaged, trees that tolerate wet conditions, such as alder and willow, would predominate and the site would slowly revert to wet woodland

Ditches are an essential part of the site, helping to regulate water levels and forming an important wildlife habitat. These host in early spring, spawning frogs and toads and in summer, dragonflies and damselflies. The 3 fields that form the site are divided by fenced wet ditches. Each field is further divided by an unfenced wet ditch, which is easily crossed by cattle.

The insect life of the Marshes has in the past benefitted from detailed surveys by local naturalists and the results of their labours are shown in the Species lists below.

Field I

Field I, the driest of the three, consists of a herb-poor grass sward including creeping bent, meadow foxtail and rough-stalked meadow-grass. Other grass species, which occur occasionally, include tufted hair-grass, Yorkshire fog, timothy, perennial ryegrass and meadow fescue. The only herb species occurring in any great quantity is creeping buttercup. On the eastern boundary of this field is a small sedge bed dominated by greater pond sedge.

Field 2

Field 2 is slightly wetter than field 1, and contains several sedge beds, dominated by greater pond sedge and slender tufted sedge. The surrounding grassland around the sedge beds is also wetter and richer in varieties than Field 1. To be found amongst the creeping bent and creeping buttercup are large patches of wetland grasses, including tufted hair-grass and reed canary-grass along with various rushes and reeds.



Field 2 in flood – December 2012

Field 3

Field 3 is the wettest and is a complex mix of sedge beds, stands of tall wetland grasses, and areas of shorter grassland. Large areas are dominated by a single species, including greater pond sedge, slender tussock sedge, reed sweet-grass, reed canary-grass and tufted hair-grass. Amongst these can also be found meadowsweet, marsh marigold, redshank, ragged robin and marsh bedstraw. There is a large patch of tubular water dropwort, in the south-western corner. This species is listed in the Leicestershire and Rutland Rare Plant Register, and is mainly restricted to the Soar Valley.



Field 3 in summer

The Wet Ditches

The wet ditches support a rich group of tall wetland grasses such as reed sweet-grass and reed canary-grass, with patches of greater pond sedge. They also provide a habitat for aquatic species including water forget-me-not, celery-leaved buttercup, pink water-speedwell, fool's water-cress, gipsywort, water mint and common water-starwort. Ditch 3 (between fields 1 and 2) has a row of crack willow stakes.

Species Lists¹

Plantlife

Field 1

- Brown sedge (*Carex disticha*)
- Common sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*)
- Greater pond sedge (*Carex riparia*)
- Hard rush (*Juncus inflexus*)
- Marsh bedstraw (*Galium palustre*)

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

- Meadow buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*)
- Meadow vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*)
- Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*)
- Redshank (*Persicaria maculosa*)
- Ragged robin (*Lychnis flos-cuculi*)
- Soft rush (*Juncus effusus*)
- Spiked sedge (*Carex spicata*)

Field 2

- Brown sedge (*Carex disticha*)
- Common sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*)
- False fox-sedge (*Carex otrubae*)
- Greater pond sedge (*Carex riparia*)
- Hard rush (*Juncus inflexus*)
- Jointed rush (*Juncus articulatus*)
- Ladies smock (*Cardamine pratensis*)
- Lesser pond sedge (*Carex acutiformis*)
- Marsh bedstraw (*Galium palustre*)
- Meadow buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*)
- Meadow vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*)
- Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*)
- Soft rush (*Juncus effusus*)
- Ragged robin (*Lychnis flos-cuculi*)
- Slender tufted sedge (*Carex acuta*)
- Tubular water dropwort (*Oenanthe fistulosa*)

Field 3

- Angelica (*Angelica sylvestris*)
- Brown sedge (*Carex distica*)
- Common sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*)
- Greater pond sedge (*Carex riparia*)
- Hard rush (*Juncus inflexus*)
- Jointed rush (*Juncus articulatus*)
- Lesser pond sedge (*Carex acutiformis*)
- Marsh bedstraw (*Galium palustre*)
- Marsh-marigold (*Caltha palustris*)
- Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*)
- Slender tufted sedge (*Carex acuta*)
- Soft rush (*Juncus effusus*)
- Ragged robin (*Lychnis flos-cuculi*)

Butterflies

- Comma (*Polygonia c-album*)
- Gatekeeper (*Pyronia tithonus*)
- Green-Veined White (*Pieris napi subsp.*)
- Holly Blue (*Celastrina argiolus*)
- Large Skipper (*Ochlodes vanatus*)
- Meadow Brown (*Maniola jurtina*)
- Peacock (*Inachis io*)
- Red Admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*)
- Small Copper (*Lycaena phlaeas*)
- Small White (*Pieris rapae*)
- Small Tortoiseshell (*Aglais urticae*)

Birds

- Blackbird (*Turdus merula*)
- Blue Tit (*Parus caeruleus*)
- Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*)
- Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*)
- Canada Goose (*Branta Canadensis*)
- Carrion Crow (*Corvus corone*)
- Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*)
- Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*)
- Great Tit (*Parus major*)
- Green Woodpecker (*Picus viridis*)
- Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*)
- Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)
- Red Kite (*Milvus milvus*)
- Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*)
- Reed Bunting (*Emberiza schoeniclus*)
- Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*)
- Sedge Warbler (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*)
- Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*)
- Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)
- Swift (*Apus apus*)
- Woodpigeon (*Columba palumbus*)
- Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*)

Insects

- Pea-leaf Weevil Sitona (*Sitona*)

Dragonflies

- Banded Demoiselle (*Calopteryx splendens*)

- Brown Hawker (*Aeshna grandis*)

Beetles

- *Agonum (Europhilus)*
- *Aloconota Aloconota (Aloconota)*
- *Amischa analis*
- *Amischa forcipata*
- *Anacaena limbata*
- *Anacaena lutescens*
- *Anotylus Anotylus tetracarinatus*
- *Aphodius (Agrilinus)*
- *Bembidion Bembidion (Diplocampa)*
- *Bembidion Bembidion (Philochthus)*
- *Bembidion fumigatum*
- *Carpelimus bilineatus*
- *Cercyon (Cercyon)*
- *Cercyon Cercyon convexiusculus*
- *Cercyon tristis*
- *Coccidula rufa*
- *Hydrothassa Hydrothassa marginella*
- *Hygronoma dimidiata*
- *Lathrobium Lathrobium*
- *Lesteva longoelytrata*
- *Mocyta amplicollis*
- *Ochthebius Ochthebius (Asiobates)*
- *Pachnida nigella*
- *Phalacrus caricis*
- *Psammoecus Psammoecus*
- *Pterostichus Pterostichus*
- *Pterostichus Pterostichus (Argutor)*
- *Stenus (Hypostenus)*
- *Stenus (Stenus) juno*
- *Stenus (Stenus) boops*
- *Tachyporus pallidus*

Spiders

- *Alopecosa pulverulenta*
- *Baryphyma pratense*
- *Bathyphantes Bathyphantes*
- *Bathyphantes gracilis*
- *Ceratinella brevipes*

- *Dicymbium nigrum*
- *Diplocephalus Diplocephalus permixtus*
- *Erigone atra*
- *Gnathonarium Gnathonarium dentatum*
- *Hypomma Hypomma*
- *Larinioides cornutus*
- *Lepthyphantes tenuis*
- *Oedothorax fuscus*
- *Oedothorax gibbosus*
- *Oedothorax retusus*
- *Oedothorax retusus*
- *Pachygnatha clercki*
- *Pachygnatha clercki*
- *Pardosa amentata*
- *Pardosa palustris*
- *Pardosa prativaga*
- *Pardosa pullata*
- *Pirata piraticus*
- *Pisaura mirabilis*
- *Pocadicnemis juncea*
- *Savignia frontata*
- *Tallusia experta*
- *Trochosa ruricola*
- *Walckenaeria nudipalpis*
- *Xysticus cristatus*