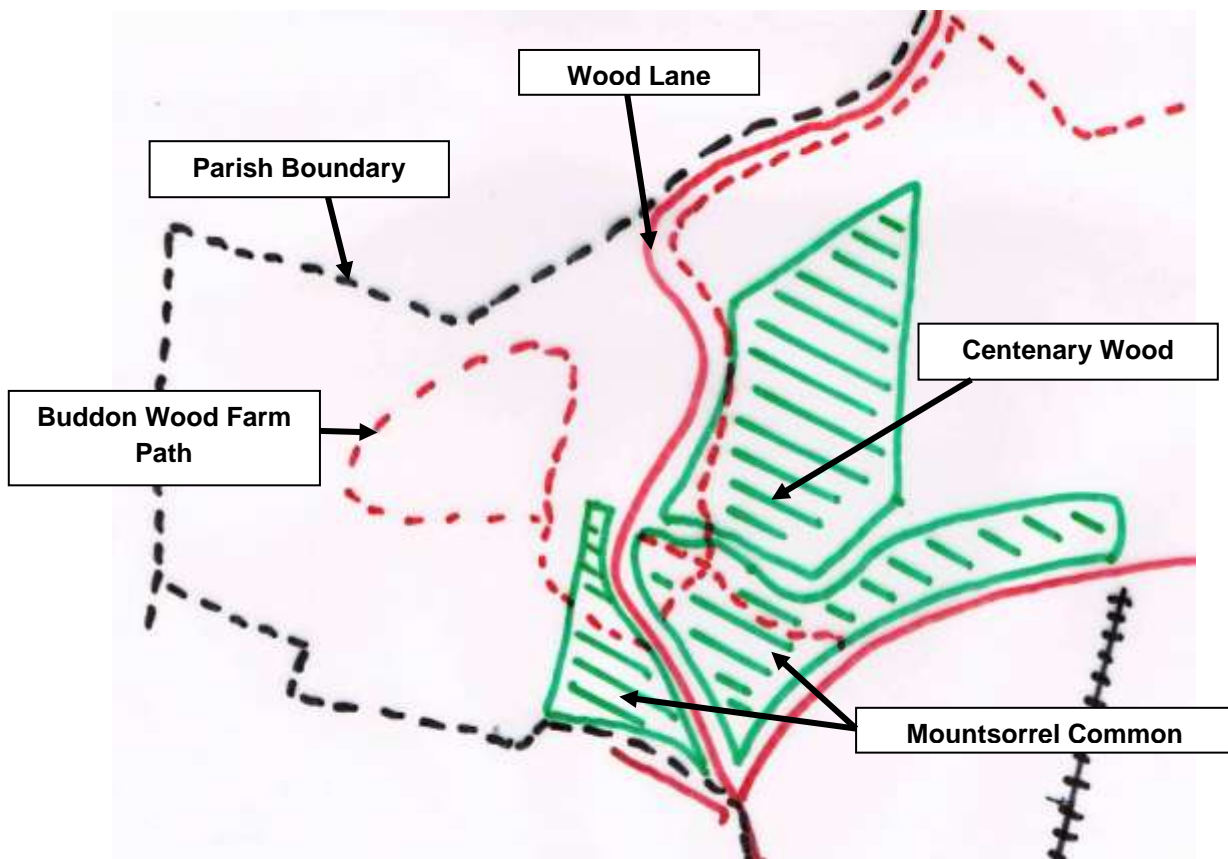


Mountsorrel Wildlife Sites 2016 – Mountsorrel Common, Buddon Wood Farm Path and Centenary Wood

The western side of the village contains three linked wildlife areas;

- Mountsorrel Common
- Buddon Wood Farm Path, and
- Centenary Wood



Mountsorrel Common

Described by Charnwood Borough Council (CBC) as “Bond Lane Wood”, the site was surveyed as a candidate SiNC in 2004 (CBC Reference W 5614 / 12 [51243]). The report noted that “The undulating terrain within the wood is used for motorbike and mountain bike scrambling and Human disturbance is likely to be appreciable”. That abuse has continued despite efforts by the Parish Council and Police. The site does however have both flora and fauna of interest. MHG carried out an informal survey in 2009.

Leading away from the western half of the site (the site is bisected by Wood Lane) is the recently opened permissive path on regenerated quarry land referred to by Leicestershire & Rutland Ornithological Society (after consultation with MHG) as Buddon Wood Farm Path.



Mountsorrel Common early spring 2016

Leading away north from the eastern half is the recently opened permissive path through Centenary Wood on regenerated quarry land referred to by Leicestershire & Rutland Ornithological Society (after consultation with MHG) as Centenary Wood Path. This path links up to the old public footpath from Wood Lane to Bond Lane that passes through the quarry stock area.

To the south of the site are the Halstead Rd fields where building work has now started which will result in a major loss of bird habitats.



The site comprises semi-natural broad-leaved woodland on acid soil with are numerous glades, especially on the eastern and southern fringes, some becoming overgrown with scrub. There is a ditch along the northern boundary.

Whilst the dominant species is Pedunculate Oak there is abundant Hawthorn scrub with Silver Birch and self-seeded Sycamore. Ash, Elder and Rowan Are present with Holly and

Blackthorn in the shrub layer. There is abundant Bramble and some seedling buddleias. Dead wood is to be found, both standing and fallen trees.

Historically the site was heath land and has reverted to woodland through lack of management. Anecdotally it is said that bilberry was to be found.



Crab Apple Blossom

In spring Bluebells are to be seen scattered throughout the site

The drainage ditch along the north boundary of the wood is overgrown with bramble and coarse grasses, cleavers and broad-leaved dock, it still holds water. This supports occasional clumps of greater reedmace.

Centenary Wood

Planted in part by children from Christ Church & St Peter's Primary School, this small piece of woodland celebrates the centenary of the Parish Council (there is a memorial stone). It had been forgotten and abandoned for several years until LaFarge (now TARMAC) opened up a new permissive path running through it to join the Wood Lane/Bond Lane path that runs through the Quarry Stock area. The site closest to the Common is developing well, with spring woodland flowers under an upper storey of mixed Field Maple, Scot's-Pine, Ash, Pedunculate Oak and Rowan. Initially the path down from the Common is a little precipitous but soon opens up

along a well laid and fenced pathway through birch trees to the Wood Lane path junction.



Spring 2016



Summer 2016

Pathway to Wood Lane Path Junction



Centenary Wood Memorial Stone – Spring 2015

Buddon Wood Farm Path

Another recently opened permissive pathway, this forms a short circular route along the eastern side of Buddon Wood Quarry and is accessed through the western half of the Common. LaFarge stated a long term intention of open up a viewing platform at the eastern end but this is probably some years off as yet. Despite its rawness and understandable disturbance from the continuing quarry improvement workings, there is a growing number of birds and, amongst plant life, common orchids have been in the more open areas.



***Buddon Wood Farm Path – Bee
Orchids Summer 2013***



Buddon Wood Farm Path – Summer 2016

Species¹

Lepidoptera

- Common Blue (*Polyommatus icarus*)
- Holly Blue (*Celastrina argiolus*)
- Gatekeeper (*Pyronia tithonus*)
- Meadow Brown (*Maniola jurtina*)
- Small Copper (*Lycaena phlaeas*)
- Small Heath (*Coenonympha*)
- Small Skipper (*Thymelicus sylvestris*)
- Speckled Wood (*Parage aegeria*)

Dragonflies

- Common Darter (*Sympetrum striolatum*)

¹ Species lists are drawn from Leicestershire County Council Environmental Services records, Charnwood Borough Council Wildlife Surveys, Local Naturalists and MHG Members' Records

Mosses

- *Amblystegium Amblystegium serpens*
- Bicoloured Bryum (*Bryum bicolor*)
- Big Shaggy-moss (*Rhytidiadelphus*)
- Bristly Haircap (*Polytrichum piliferum*)
- *Bryum capillare* var.
- Cape Thread-moss (*Orthodontium lineare*)
- Clustered Feather-moss (*Rhynchostegium*)
- Common Feather-moss (*Eurhynchium*)
- Common Pincushion (*Dicranoweisia cirrata*)
- Cylindric Beard-moss (*Didymodon insulanus*)
- Cypress-leaved Plait (*Hypnum*)
- Elegant Silk-moss (*Pseudotaxiphyllum*)
- *Grimmia pulvinata*
- Nodding Thread-moss (*Pohlia nutans*)
- Red Beard-moss (*Bryoerythrophyllum*)
- Rough-stalked Feather (*Brachythecium*)
- Rusty Swan-neck Moss (*Campylopus*)
- Silky Forklet-moss (*Dicranella heteromalla*)
- Silky Wall Feather-moss (*Homalothecium*)
- Silver-moss (*Bryum argenteum*)
- *Tortula muralis* var.

Trees and Shrubs

- Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*)
- Blackthorn / Sloe (*Prunus spinosa*)
- Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*)
- Buddleia (*Buddleja davidii*)
- Crab Apple (*Malus sylvestris*)
- Dog Rose (*Rosa canina*)
- Dogwood (*Thelycrania sanguine*)
- Elder (*Sambucus nigra*)
- Gean / Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*)
- Grey Willow (*Salix cinerea*)
- Hawthorn (*Crateagus monogyna*)
- Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*)
- Oak (*Quercus robur*)
- Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*)
- Raspberry (*Rubus idaeus*)
- Rowan / Mountain Ash (*Sorbus aucuparia*)
- Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*)

- Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*)
- Weeping Crown Silver Birch (*Betula Pendula*)
- Willow (*Salix sp*)

Plants

- Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides sp.*)
- Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*)
- Buttercup (*Ranunculus sp*)
- Celandine (*Chelidonium majus*)
- Cleavers/Goose Grass/Sweetheart (*Galium aparine*)
- Clover (*Trifolium sp*)
- Coltsfoot (*Tussilago farfara*)
- Common Bent Grass (*Agrostis capillaries*)
- Common Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*)
- Dandelion (*Taraxacum agg.*)
- Deadly Nightshade (*Atropa belladonna*)
- Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*)
- Flowering Rush (*Butomus umbellatus*)
- Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*)
- Hawkweed (*Hieracium sp*)
- Ivy (*Hedera helix*)
- Lady Smock (*Cardamine protensis*)
- Lords and Ladies/Cuckoo-pint (*Arum maculatum*)
- Marsh Cudweed (*Gnaphalium uliginosum*)
- Mustard Garlic (*Alliaria petiolata*)
- Ox Eye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*)
- Plantain (*Plantago sp*)
- Red Campion (*Silene dioica*)
- Red Dead Nettle (*Lamium purpureum*)
- Rose Bay Willow Herb (*Chamerion angustifolium*)
- Sow Thistle (*Sonchus sp*)
- Speedwell (*Veronica sp*)
- Soapwort (*Saponaria officinalis*)
- Snowdrops (*Galanthus nivalis*)
- Tansey (*Tanacetum vulgare*)
- Toad Rush (*Juncus bufonius*)
- Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*)
- Tufted Hair Grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*)
- White Dead Nettle (*Lamium album*)
- Wood Sage (*Teucrium scorodonia*)
- Wood Stitchwort (*Stellaria nemorum*)

- Woodruff (*Galium odoratum*)

Animals

- Common Lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*)

Birds

- Blackbird (*Turdus merula*)
- Blue Tit (*Parus caeruleus*)
- Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*)
- Chaffinch (*Fringella coelebs*)
- Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*)
- Goldcrest (*Regulus regulus*)
- Great Tit (*Parus major*)
- Great Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopus major*)
- Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*)
- Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*)
- Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*)