

Case Studies

Sandy Spinney Quarry; an old quarry containing areas of wildflower rich calcareous grassland in danger of being lost to scrub, Working with the landowner and Natural England the site is entering into Environmental Stewardship scheme, meaning the site will be restored alongside other areas of wildlife interest across the landholding.

Inspiring Meadows Project;

Northamptonshire's most threatened habitat, the wildflower meadow, was the target for the Wildlife Trust's *Inspiring Meadows* project. The Trust worked with landowners to restore meadows across Northamptonshire, offering free wildlife surveys and management advice, as well as funding for practical work, such as fencing, to restore meadow habitats and help secure long-term management.



Rushton Grange Meadow; a species rich wet meadow that was declining due to under-management. A management plan has been produced, the site fenced, water provided and the meadow will now be managed through cattle grazing with the help of a local grazier.

Kings Cliffe Meadow; owned by the district council and unmanaged for years, the project has funded litter clearance, fencing to allow restoration grazing by cattle to begin and access gates to allow the local public to enjoy the site, which could one day become a Local Nature Reserve.

Orchids at Sandy Spinney Quarry

LWS System

The Local Wildlife Sites System is based on a partnership, involving the Wildlife Trust, local authorities, statutory conservation agencies, local naturalists and landowners. All LWS are chosen based on their substantive conservation value, and assessed against a publicly available county-based set of criteria. The aim is to select a comprehensive (rather than representative) set of locally important sites for wildlife known as Local Wildlife Sites (LWS).

Local Wildlife Site (LWS) recognition is fundamentally different from statutory designations such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). LWS recognition is not overseen by Natural England and carries no obligations on the owners who are free to continue to manage the sites as they see fit. LWS recognition seeks to focus and enhance sympathetic management of the site for wildlife. Recognition of a new LWS does not confer any new rights of access either to the public or conservation organisations.

For more information on Local Wildlife Sites please contact;

Local Wildlife Sites Officer

The Wildlife Trust, Lings House,
Billing Lings, Northampton, NN3 8BE

Tel: 01604 405285

Email: matt.johnson@wildlifebcn.org

Or visit the website:

www.wildlifetrustbcn.org

wildlifebcn



The Wildlife Sites system is supported by;



Bedfordshire
Cambridgeshire
Northamptonshire

Photo Haise Cope Meadow

Local Wildlife Sites

What are Local Wildlife Sites?

Northamptonshire's Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) are areas of land rich in wildlife. They encompass a variety of habitats such as wildflower meadows, ancient woodlands, wetlands, old quarries and roadside verges. LWS are a range of shapes and sizes and provide refuge for a wealth of wildlife including rare plants such as orchids, insects; including butterflies, dragonflies and bees and rarer mammals like bats and water voles.



Dragonfly emerging

LWS are locally defined and are the most important areas for wildlife outside of legally protected sites, such as Sites of Scientific Interest (SSSI). LWS are places where species and habitats flourish because of past

and current management. Northamptonshire has approximately 750 LWS which create a network of natural sites across the county, They play a vital role in conserving our natural heritage by providing essential wildlife refuges and corridors across our countryside.

Sites are owned by a range of organisations such as charities, businesses, estates or private individuals and it is through the goodwill of these owners that the sites are conserved and retain their wildlife value. These valuable habitats cover just 5% of the County and as our nature reserves and SSSIs are often small and disconnected, LWS complement them by forming buffers around or corridors between them, allowing wildlife to thrive across our countryside.



Buff-tailed Bumblebee

What the Wildlife Trust is doing

The Wildlife Trust maintains a database of all Local Wildlife Sites and aims to survey each site every 5 to 10 years. This allows us to find out what wildlife is currently on or using a site.

So, if you are lucky enough to own or manage a LWS you can receive free advice on the most wildlife friendly options for its management and information on the species to be found. We also give information on possible sources of grant-aid towards conservation-friendly management.

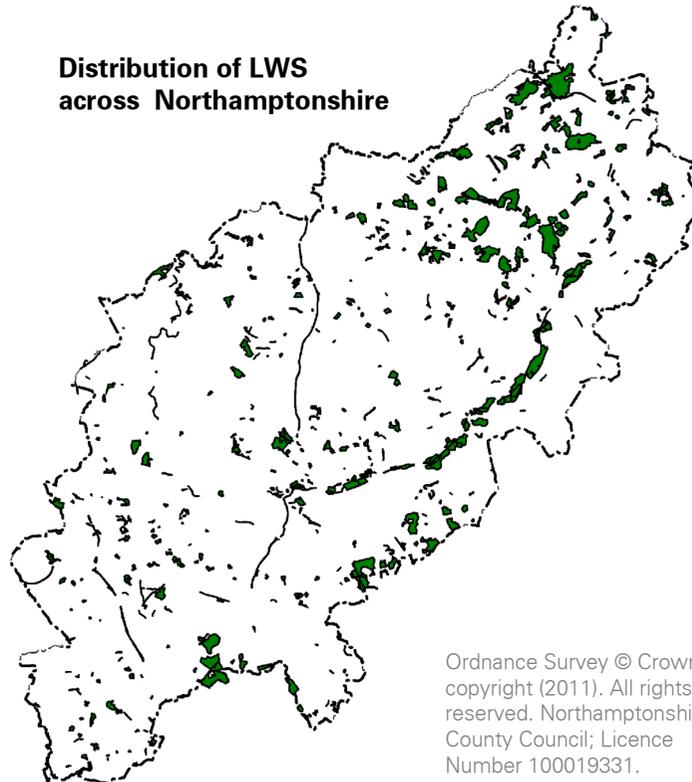


Ragged Robin

The Trust also maintains a live stock grazing network, to put landowners in touch with local graziers, as well as local contractors who can help with fencing or hay cuts;

www.cutandchew.org.uk

Distribution of LWS across Northamptonshire



Photos by Matt Johnson

Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright (2011). All rights reserved. Northamptonshire County Council; Licence Number 100019331.

What can landowners do?

Get a survey/management plan; if you own a LWS or a site that you think might qualify, please contact the Wildlife Trust for a free survey and management advice.

Carry on management; the high wildlife value of many LWS is often a result of long-term traditional management alongside which native wildlife has flourished. For example coppiced woodlands and traditionally hay-cut meadows.

Apply for funding; we recognise the difficulties in managing LWS solely for their wildlife interest and provide advice and assistance in finding funding to help manage your site. For example the chances of success of agri-environment grant applications are higher if the area has been recognised as a LWS.



Cattle grazing LWS meadow

River at Duston Meadow



LWS Woodland