

How to find the reserve

The reserve is located alongside the A6003 to Corby, however there is at present no formal parking provision. Therefore the recommended approach to the reserve is from the village of Rushton. Once in Rushton village, park at the end of Manor Road. From here follow the bridleway to its junction with a public footpath. Cross under the railway and follow the waymarked footpath across two field, then re-cross the railway by bridge which is visible at the high corner of the second field.



Male
kestrel



Alder

We hope you enjoy your visit

More Information

Your local Wildlife Trust protects wildlife and countryside for people to enjoy in Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Peterborough. We are a charity dependent on voluntary contributions.

If you would like more information about this reserve or other reserves in Northamptonshire, please contact:

Reserves Manager
The Wildlife Trust
Lings House,
Billing Lings, Northampton
NN3 8BE
Tel: 01604 405285
E-mail: northamptonshire@wildlifebcnp.org

This site is supported by:



Through the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme



www.wildlifebcnp.org

The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire,
Northamptonshire and Peterborough. Registered charity no: 1000412



Bedfordshire
Cambridgeshire
Northamptonshire
Peterborough

Welcome to Barford Meadow Nature Reserve

Photograph by Nathalie Hueber, illustrations by Mike Langman

Protecting wildlife
close to home

History

Since acquiring the site in 1994, The Wildlife Trust has undertaken a number of projects to increase the diversity of the habitats of this site, the most obvious being the new woodland area at the southern end of the site. The newly planted woodland is intended to reflect the types of woodland that were found in the ancient Rockingham Forest and has been carefully planned to represent the variety of structures that exist in a native woodland. The parkland area, hay meadow and the surrounding scrub combine to create a mosaic of habitat types, which provide cover and food for a whole variety of animals. As the woodland becomes established a greater variety of wildlife will be attracted to the site.

Hay meadow

Hay meadows in both Northamptonshire and the country as a whole are a particularly endangered habitat. As an example of traditionally managed meadows, this area of the reserve is a Site of Specific Scientific Interest, a legally protected conservation area.



Lady's bedstraw

The area North-east of the meadow, across the River Ise is known as Five Acres and includes a range of habitats; the hay meadow by the river, limestone grassland at the northern end and scrub alongside the railway embankment from which badgers and foxes are often seen visiting the site. The River Ise which flows between the meadow and Five Acres, is fringed by mature alder trees.



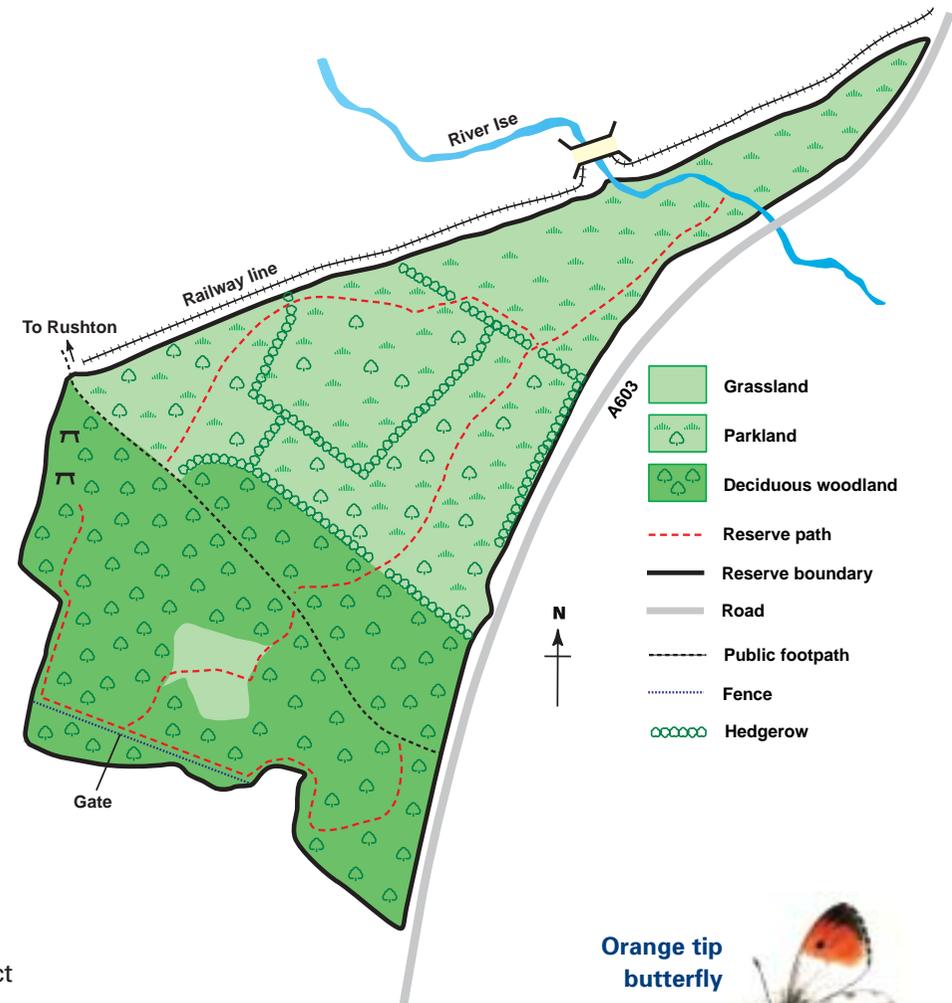
Meadow saxifrage

Parkland

Parkland is an area of grassland in which scattered trees are allowed to grow and is typical of 18th Century landscaping. Together with the woodland, this formed an important element of the Rockingham Forest, and the newly created parkland is intended to reflect this. When this matures, the older trees associated with the parkland will provide a vitally important habitat for a great diversity of wildlife including lichens and invertebrates such as longhorn beetles, that require the open growth and dead wood habitat, which the older trees provide.



Fox



Orange tip butterfly



Future management

Whilst some of the woodland will be allowed to mature into high forest (un-managed woodland), areas of the new wood will be coppiced. Coppicing is a traditional management technique in which timber is harvested in a regular cycle from areas of a wood. Traditionally used to provide a regular supply of timber, coppicing also creates temporary sunlit glades, of value to woodland flowers and invertebrates.