

Local Wildlife Sites

FACTSHEET

Background and survey work

We began ecology surveys in Spring 2023. These cover both habitats and species. The surveys that we have carried out so far include:

- Phase 1 habitat survey
- Breeding bird survey
- Badger survey
- Water vole and otter survey
- Great crested newt survey
- Bat survey

The site does not include any statutory ecological designated sites. The Fledborough Holme River Meadowlands and the Marnham Railway Yard Local Wildlife sites, which are afforded local protection, are adjacent to the site.

Results so far

The on-site water bodies were found not to support great crested newts. The River Trent and ditches within the site offer suitable habitat for water voles, however no evidence of otters has been found within the river bank habitat. Badgers and common bat species have been found within the site. The bird survey has identified several native species as well turtle doves, which are a declining species.

The water bodies on-site water bodies were sampled and analysed for presence of great crested newt. Environmental DNA (eDNA) analysis confirmed that great crested newts were not present. The River Trent and ditch systems within the Site offer suitable habitat for water voles, however, to date no evidence of water voles has been found. There has been no evidence of otter within the Site. Badger and several common and widespread bat species have been identified within the Site. Breeding bird surveys confirmed an assemblage of species attributed to the farmland habitats within the area.

Two Schedule 1 listed breeding birds were recorded during the breeding bird surveys: hobby and turtle dove.

Next steps

Informed by the results of our surveys and our engagement with Natural England and other relevant bodies, we will propose biodiversity enhancements. We will retain as many on-site trees, hedgerows, ditches and other important habitats within the sites as possible. We will develop a comprehensive site-wide biodiversity and landscape management plan to protect and enhance biodiversity. Achieving enhancement is a key measure of our success and it will be calculated using evolving best practice, in particular the Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) metric.

