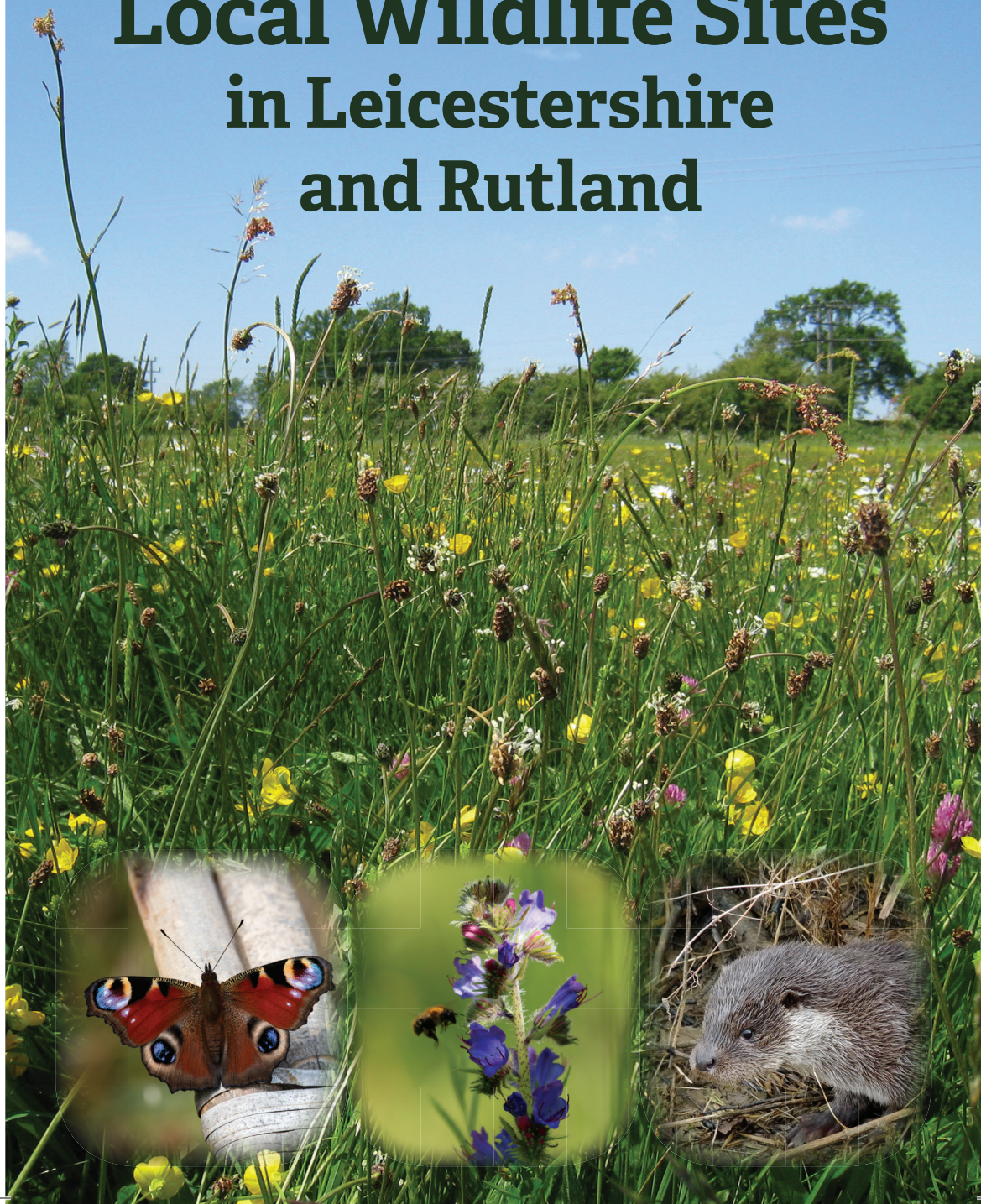




**Leicestershire
& Rutland**
Wildlife Trust

Local Wildlife Sites in Leicestershire and Rutland





What are Local Wildlife Sites?

From mystical ancient woodlands to quiet churchyards and bustling flower-rich roadsides; and from field-bordering hedgerows to small field ponds, Leicestershire and Rutland enjoy special, often unnoticed wild places where nature thrives.

Whether they are in the depths of the countryside or nestled in busy towns and cities, these Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) are exceptional areas of land. They are identified and selected by local nature experts, using robust, scientifically-determined criteria and detailed ecological surveys. Their selection is based on the most important, distinctive and threatened species and habitats within a national, regional and local context. This makes them some of our most valuable wildlife areas.

You can download the Guidelines for the selection of Local Wildlife Sites and find out more at www.lrwt.org.uk/what-we-do/local-wildlife-sites

Photos (front cover): all Claire Install except the otter by Peter Dams, photo above: Helen O'Brien

Are Local Wildlife Sites Protected by Law?

Local Wildlife Sites have no legal protection despite being of great value for wildlife.

Although not protected by law, Local Wildlife Sites are recognised across the UK in planning policies, which set out requirements for protection through local plans.

Local Wildlife Sites support the vast majority of our local wildlife and rely on sympathetic owners to maintain and safeguard their quality.



Why Local Wildlife Sites Matter



People need nature

For many years the social value of Local Wildlife Sites has gone unrecognised. But research shows nearby wild green space greatly improves mental and physical health

They can be buffers

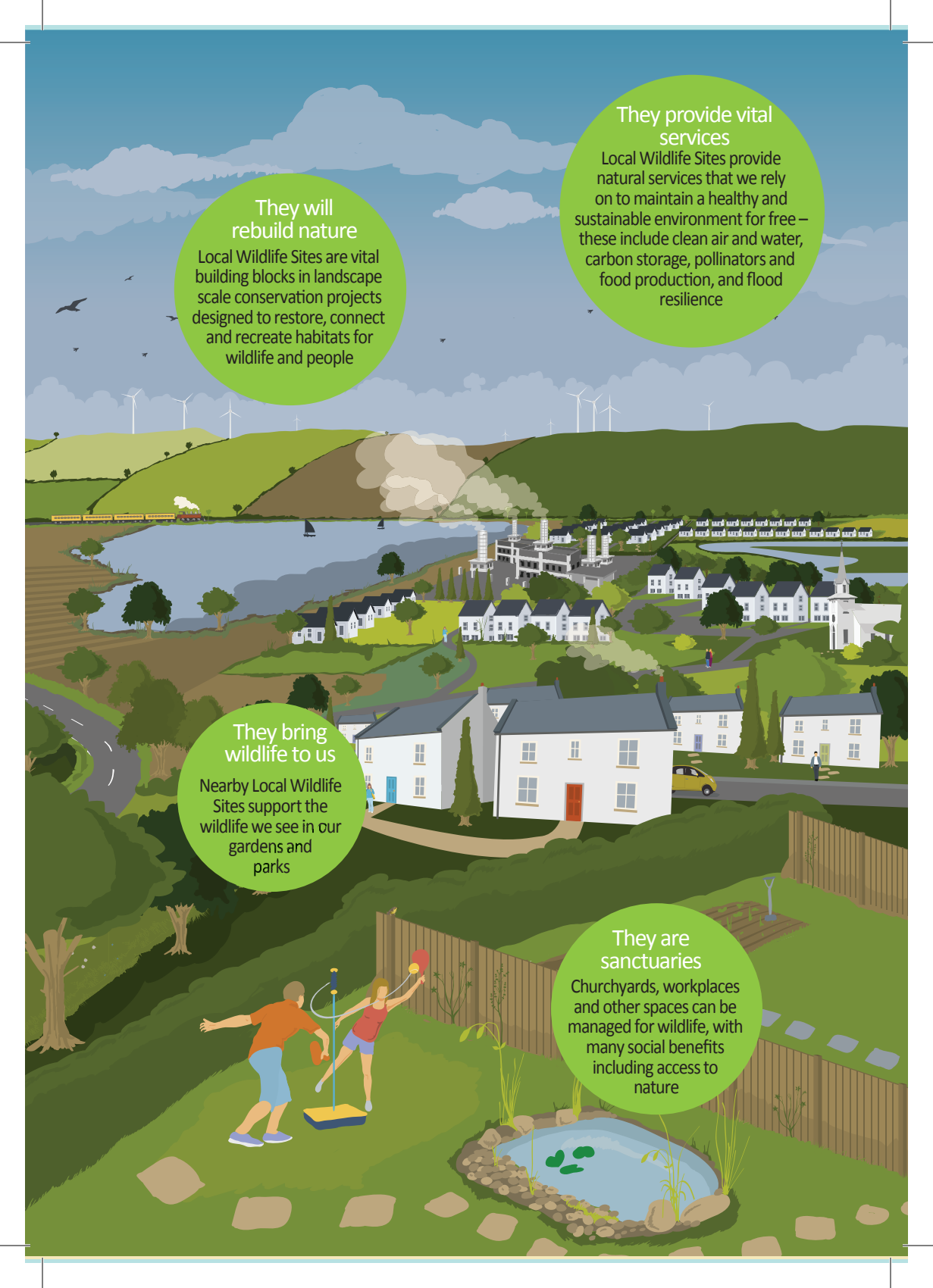
Local Wildlife Sites next to or near to protected areas can protect wildlife from surrounding land uses

They are brilliant for wildlife

Local Wildlife Sites are vital havens, where much of our amazing wildlife lives, including rare species. Even small sites act as 'stepping stones' across the wider landscape

They are nature highways

Features such as rivers, verges, hedgerows and embankments act as corridors along which wild plants and animals can move



The illustration depicts a vibrant landscape. In the foreground, a man and a woman are playing a game of catch in a garden with a small pond. The middle ground shows a town with a church, houses, and a car. In the background, there are rolling hills, wind turbines, and a train crossing a bridge over a river. The sky is blue with some clouds and birds.

They will rebuild nature

Local Wildlife Sites are vital building blocks in landscape scale conservation projects designed to restore, connect and recreate habitats for wildlife and people

They provide vital services

Local Wildlife Sites provide natural services that we rely on to maintain a healthy and sustainable environment for free – these include clean air and water, carbon storage, pollinators and food production, and flood resilience

They bring wildlife to us

Nearby Local Wildlife Sites support the wildlife we see in our gardens and parks

They are sanctuaries

Churchyards, workplaces and other spaces can be managed for wildlife, with many social benefits including access to nature

Who Treasures and Protects These Places?

Local Wildlife Sites are often privately owned and rely on the sheer commitment of landowners and managers, farmers and volunteers who are prepared to carry out sensitive habitat management. Some Local Wildlife Sites in our towns and cities are the responsibility of Local Authorities who manage and maintain them with the help of partners such as The Wildlife Trust and The Conservation Volunteers. Without such care and effort, a site will gradually decline.

With landowners permission, Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust survey sites to see whether they meet Local Wildlife Site criteria. We also re-survey designated Local Wildlife Sites. After surveys we offer free land management advice taking into account land use and feasibility, species lists and provide information on any grants that may be available.

"The national network of Local Wildlife Sites is important not only to ensure the future of rare species...but also more common ones like thrushes, peacock butterflies and cowslips"

Sir David Attenborough, Patron of Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust.

Photo: Andy Lear



Photos (l-r): Kate Nightingale, Claire Install and Margaret Holland

Leicestershire and Rutland Local Wildlife Site Facts



Linear Local Wildlife Sites...

98 km

of roadside verges designated as LWS for their high quality grassland

153 km

of ditches, rivers or streams designated as LWS

67 km

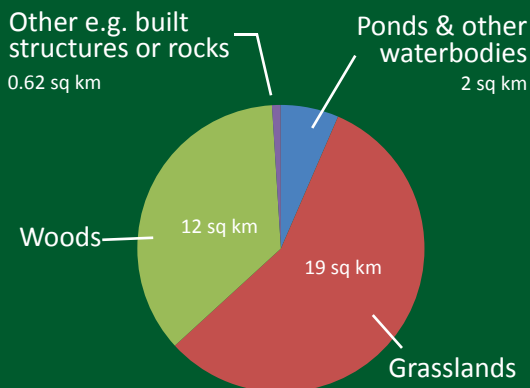
of hedgerows designated as LWS

Non-Linear Local Wildlife Sites



...1.3 % of this rectangle is purple!

Habitat Types of Non-Linear LWS



Charnwood Forest Regional Park

Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust is part of the Charnwood Forest Regional Park partnership. The Regional Park's vision is "The unique natural and cultural heritage features of Charnwood Forest will be managed and promoted through the Charnwood Forest Regional Park. The Regional Park will be recognised as an essential part of the growing communities in the Derby, Leicester and Nottingham area, now and in the future". We are currently involved in a heritage lottery bid for a £2.8 million project. If successful, the project will make resources available to landowners to improve habitats in the Charnwood Forest Regional Park area. Visit the project webpage at www.nationalforest.org/involved/cfl_partnership.php to find out more.



Do you own or manage a Local Wildlife Site?

Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust
offer free surveys followed up with
management advice to encourage wildlife.

If you would like to talk to someone at LRWT about Local Wildlife Sites, please send an email mentioning LWS in the subject to info@lrwt.org.uk or call 0116 262 9968.

The City, County and Charnwood Borough Councils also have ecologists who work with LWS and their owners, contacts for these are below:
City - Nature Conservation Team - planning@leicester.gov.uk
County Ecology Team - planningecology@leics.gov.uk / 0116 305 4108
Charnwood - biodiversity@charnwood.gov.uk

Supported by



THE NATIONAL
FOREST



**Leicestershire
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Wildlife Trust**

Photo: Ross Hodinott

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