

Exploring Tamworth's Wild Spaces



Cuckoo flower

(*Cardamine pratensis*)

Cuckoo flower is common in damp ground and is widespread in Tamworth. It flowers in spring and early summer with white or pink flowers. It is also known as lady's smock because the flowers resemble the shape of milkmaids' smocks. The flower is an important larval host plant and nectar source for the orange-tip and green-veined white butterflies.



Otter

(*Lutra lutra*)

After a dramatic decline in otter numbers both locally and nationally in the 1960s - 1980s, otters returned to Tamworth in the late 1990s and are now resident throughout the Borough. They use the wetland sites and river corridors as important stepping stones to move around.

Water vole

(*Arvicola terrestris*)

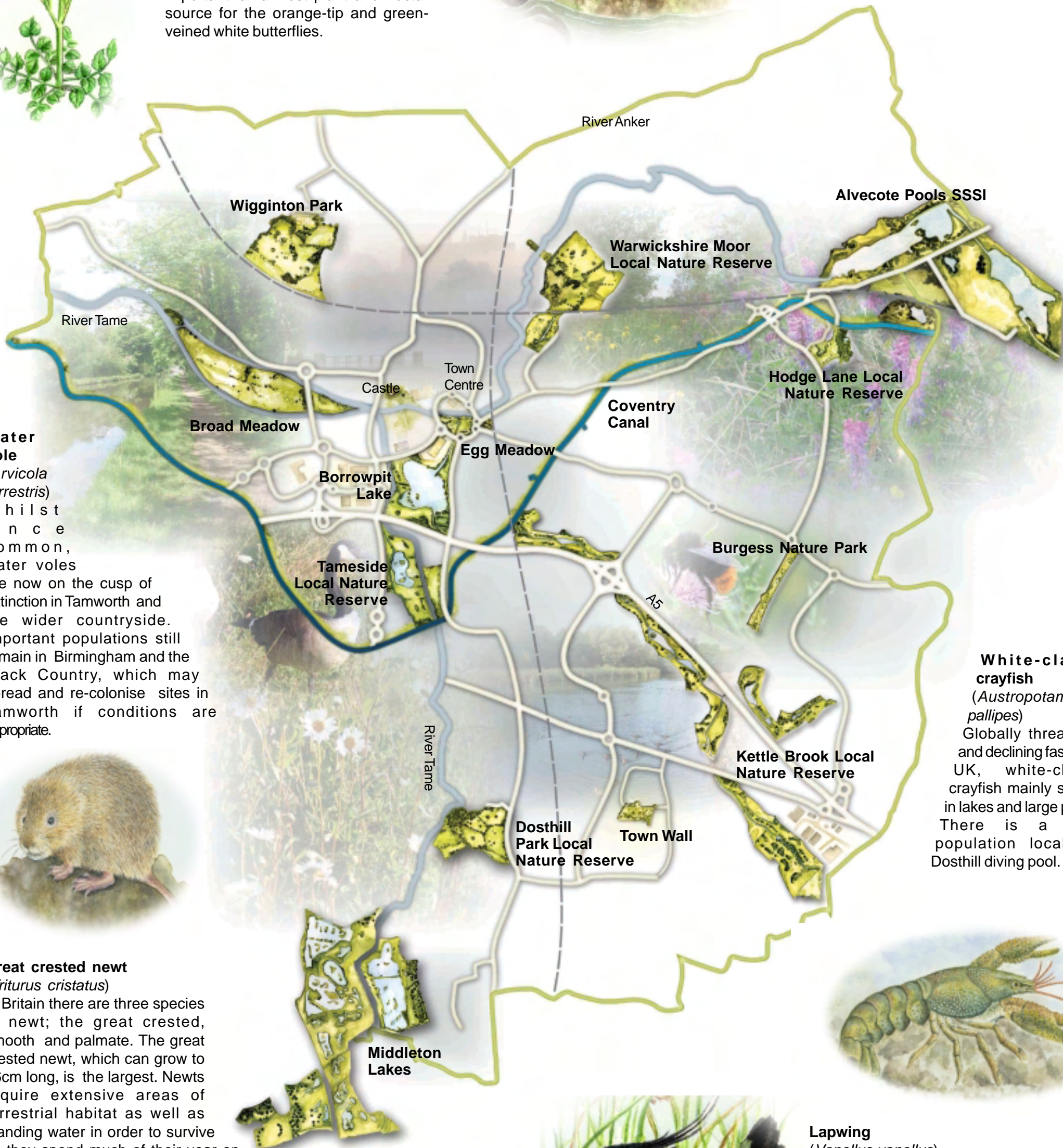
Whilst once common, water voles are now on the cusp of extinction in Tamworth and the wider countryside. Important populations still remain in Birmingham and the Black Country, which may spread and re-colonise sites in Tamworth if conditions are appropriate.



Great crested newt

(*Triturus cristatus*)

In Britain there are three species of newt; the great crested, smooth and palmate. The great crested newt, which can grow to 16cm long, is the largest. Newts require extensive areas of terrestrial habitat as well as standing water in order to survive as they spend much of their year on land, but adults return to the water to breed.



White-clawed crayfish

(*Austropotamobius pallipes*)

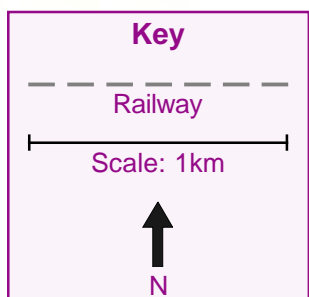
Globally threatened and declining fast in the UK, white-clawed crayfish mainly survive in lakes and large ponds. There is a good population locally in Dosthill diving pool.



Lapwing

(*Vanellus vanellus*)

Also known as the green plover or peewit, the lapwing has an iridescent plumage and a long wispy crest on its head making it easily recognisable. Lapwings are most active in the spring during the breeding season when they call distinctively as they conduct their noisy aerial displays. One of the best sites for observing lapwing in Tamworth is at Tameside Local Nature Reserve.



Volunteers all over Tamworth Borough are working to improve their local wild spaces for both people and wildlife, thanks to the Wild about Tamworth project. This project started in 2003 and is a partnership between Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, Tamworth Borough Council and local communities across the borough.



What have volunteers done so far?



- Made and put up bird boxes
- Constructed benches
- Footpath maintenance
- Environmental education with local schools
- Constructed otter holts
- Produced leaflets
- Tree thinning
- Habitat management
- Fundraising
- Organised and run events
- Constructed fences
- Hedgelaying
- ...and much more!

For a current programme of activities and events, or any further information please contact Staffordshire Wildlife Trust. Tel: 01889 880100 or email: info@staffs-wildlife.org.uk



Tamworth is situated to the north-east of Birmingham. It is easily accessed via the M42 from the east or the A5 from the west.



Staffordshire Wildlife Trust manages over 2,000 acres of land within the County for the benefit of wildlife and people. We are a registered charity (No. 259558) whose income depends largely on the support of our 16,000 plus members. If you care about wildlife and the environment, then why not join us today?

To join, or for other information, contact:
Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, The Wolseley Centre,
Wolseley Bridge, Stafford, ST17 0WT.
01889 880100 info@staffs-wildlife.org.uk
www.staffs-wildlife.org.uk



Tamworth Borough Council are the landowners of the sites and work in partnership with the Wildlife Trust to support the community in improving the environment for the benefit of both people and wildlife.

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Discover 14 wildlife sites in
Tamworth Borough



Working for a Living Landscape



Wigginton Park, Leyfields

See a variety of mature trees in this 18 hectare park. Species include oak, lime, hornbeam, beech, ash, field maple and horse chestnut.

Access from surrounding roads off Masefield Drive.

Broad Meadow, Riverside

This island between the River Tame and the flood relief channel is an ideal habitat for herons, skylarks, terns and lapwings. It also has a colony of rare snake's head fritillary flowers.



Access: Oxbridge Way via the bridge over the weir to the west of Broad Meadow.

Warwickshire Moor LNR, Bolehall

Explore this beautiful wetland site adjacent to the River Anker, and see an array of dragonflies darting between the pools in the summer.

Access from Moor Lane (Bolehall)



Alvecote Pools SSSI, Amington

Partly in Tamworth, and partly in North Warwickshire, this site is important for birds, dragonflies and orchids. It has a series of shallow pools along the River Anker.

Access from Alvecote Priory, Robey's Lane.



Town Wall, Wilnecote

Enjoy a walk around this busy community site and see the grassland and woodland species in the heart of a residential area.

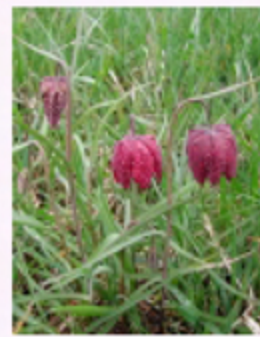
Access from Sycamore, off Hockley Road.



Hodge Lane Local Nature Reserve, Amington

This site consists of oak woodland, ponds and a meadow which is ablaze with wild flowers in spring and summer.

Access from Chandlers Drive. A cycle path runs through the middle of the site and there is disabled access to the pond.



Egg Meadow

Right in the centre of town, this would seem an unlikely place for wildlife. But look out for a wonderful display of snake's head fritillaries (left) and many other wild flowers in the meadow in spring each year.

Access from the Snow Dome car park. A circular cycle path runs around the outside of this site.

Borrowpit Lake, Kettlebrook

Enjoy a walk around this lake, and see many of Tamworth's famous swans and many other wetland birds.

Access is from the Snow Dome car park.



Tameside Local Nature Reserve, Fazeley



Take a circular walk around this site, and watch lapwings, cormorants and terns on the islands. Water voles and grass snakes can also be seen here.

Access is from Fazeley Road.

Burgess Nature Park, Glascote

Enjoy a circular walk around this popular community site and take the opportunity to play on the amenity land and admire the woodland areas.

Access from Caradoc or Glascote Road

Coventry Canal

Enjoy a walk across the borough along 6 miles of towpath. You can visit reserves such as Tameside, Hodge Lane and Alvecote Pools along the way.

Access from many surrounding roads. Much of the canal is accessible to wheelchairs and pushchairs.

Kettle Brook Local Nature Reserve, Lakeside, Stoneydelph, Belgrave and Wilnecote

This large site is made up of areas known as Lakeside, Belgrave Lakes and Quarry Hill. It has a variety of habitats, including woodland, grassland, lakes and the Kettle Brook itself which runs the length of the site.

Access from many surrounding roads. Much of this site has surfaced paths and is accessible to wheelchairs and pushchairs.



Dosthill Park LNR

Take a walk through the park and down to the River Tame, where you will be rewarded with a wonderful view of Dosthill Quarries, Middleton Lakes and beyond.

Access from Blackwood Road.

Middleton Lakes

This RSPB site consists of a series of disused quarries which have been reclaimed and landscaped to form a series of large lakes on which a huge variety of bird life can be seen. The site will be developed as a nature reserve over the next few years.

For more information contact RSPB on 01827 259454 or middletonlakes@rspb.org.uk

