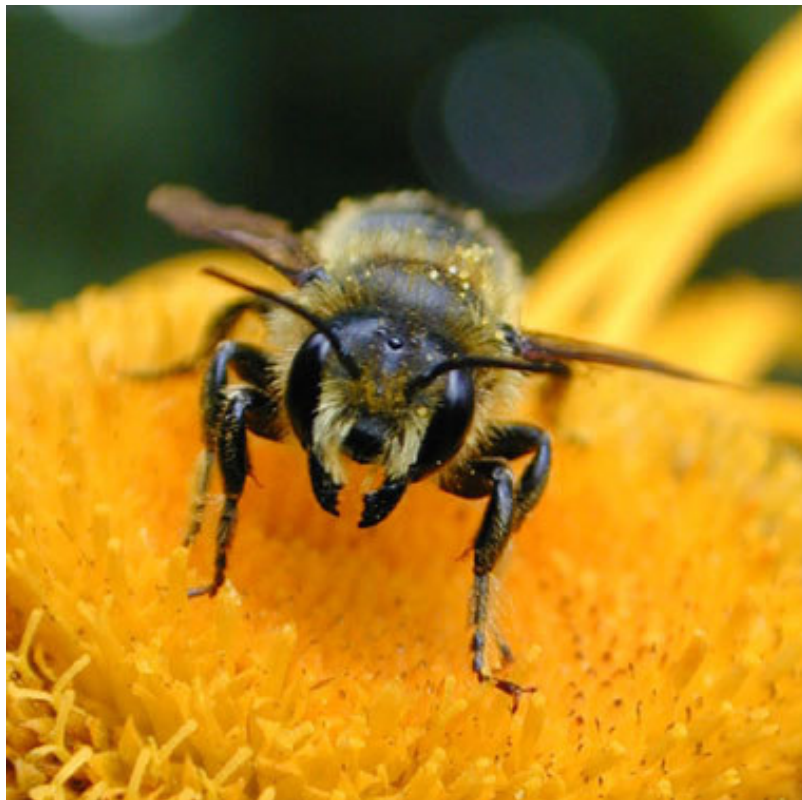


Moorhall Marsh



Proposed local Nature Reserve

**Wyre Forest District Council
January 2008**

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1. **SITE NAME**

Moor hall Marsh

2. (i) **District and County**

Wyre Forest District Council, Worcestershire.

(ii) **Planning Authorities**

County - Worcestershire,
County Hall,
Spetchley Road,
Worcester,
WR5 2NP

District - Wyre Forest District Council
Civic Centre,
Stourport on Severn,
Worcestershire.
DY13 8UJ

3. **Land Owner**

Wyre Forest District Council

4. **Area in Hectares**

1.4 Ha

5. **Site Location**

The Site is Located 200 Metres from Stourport town centre and is directly adjoining to Stourport Riverside Meadows recreational area.

The national grid reference for the nominal centre of the site is SO 805716

See figure 1 for location map 1:25,000

Map coverage for the site given on

1:50,000 Sheet 138 Kidderminster and Wyre Forest

1:25000 Sheet 953 Kidderminster and Bromsgrove

6 Site Boundary

See figure 2 for site boundary at 1:5000

7 Site History

The land was formally in the ownership of Stourport Town Council and was transferred to Wyre Forest District Council in the 1970's as part of a proposal to develop it to form part of the riverside amenity area. For unknown reasons this never took place and the land was left abandoned. Not forming part of any District Council Committee function to Manage. The lands existence was only rediscovered when a private landowner put in a planning application on an adjacent parcel of land during 2006.

The wetland nature of this piece of land would seem to originate from being a remnant of River Severn flood plane marshland, once extensive but now very scarce.

8 Description of Habitats (see Figure 3)

The site was surveyed by Paul Allen during April 2006.

The results from this survey are included in Appendix A

See figure 3 for map showing site ecological compartments

Compartment A Scrub/ woodland fringe.

Hawthorn Goat willow scrub being over grown with Crack willow and hybrid poplar.

Compartment B Degraded Wet meadow Fen

A Marshland Wet meadow flora with scattered scrub trees being overwhelmed by rampant stands of Himalayan balsam.

9 Type and Scale of Use

The site currently has no formal access being fenced on all sides. Some access is occurring, as there is areas where children's dens have been constructed and litter from where youths have gathered.

10 Description of Geologic Features

Little is known of the sites geology however it is assumed to similar to that of Redstone Marsh, a near by LNR which is also a remnant wetland in the river sever Flood plain in Stourport. This has underlying Triassic Sandstone bedrock capped with alluvial clays.

11 Description Of Site For Its Natural Features

The sites small area reduces it strategic value. However there are adjoining wild areas to the north and south of the site which fall out of the ownership of Wyre Forest District Council. Either through the subsequent declaration of these or through the planning process it is hoped that these areas biological value can be maintained, thus increasing the effective natural resources of this site. An adjoining landowner has also acquired planning permission to construct a "wildlife pool " adjacent to the site, which should help to increase this sites wildlife potential.

The site is currently swamped in Himalayan balsam that the native flora. It is hoped the grazing regime, as demonstrated on other wetland within the control of Wyre Forest District Council, will be similarly effective at totally removing this problem plant.

Grass snakes have been recorded in recent years on the immediately adjacent areas of the amenity grassland. Whilst this was of seen by the people using this area as an episode of unbelievable horror it does hold hope that Moorhall Marsh does foster a reptile population and further provides evidence for the value of wet land interpretation in this area.

12 Description of Sites Education Value

Moorhall Marsh is immediately adjacent to Stourport Riverside amenity area. This facility attracts many tens of thousands of visitors, both local and from Birmingham and the Black Country each year. Whilst the site is currently inaccessible the opening of the site through the construction of a boardwalk path leading to an interpretation point would allow this site to act as a powerful wildlife discovery area. Allowing people who have little or no knowledge of the natural world discover the wonder and importance of wetland wildlife in an easy to access environment.

13 Description of the Sites Community Value

The land has been an unused and unvalued area of Stourport for many years. Discussions with neighbouring residents and the local community about the idea of formalising the nature value of this piece of land have met with a great deal of enthusiasm.

14 Description of the sites features and Values within the Context of Wyre Forest District Council

The site is of significant biological value being a habitat type identified in both the Local and UK BAP. It also has significant potential educational value due to its proximity to the riverside meadows. Making this land a suitable for LNR declaration. The provision of a small nature reserve with easy access from the main amenity area will add another attraction to this area from a tourism perspective further adding to the towns regeneration.

15 Management Constraints

No public rights of way are shown on the definitive map.

The site borders residential properties

16 Benefits of Declaration as a Local Nature Reserve

Declaration of this site will help raise awareness of the importance of conserving our dwindling wildlife habitats and to highlight the value of using local wild spaces to relax and enjoy the natural world and as a pleasurable means in which to exercise.

The declaration would also help strengthen ties with the local community and add value to the area.

Improved public awareness through LNR declaration will reduce the incidences vandalism and fly tipping as the site loses its image of being unkempt land.

17 Management Objectives and Proposals

- a. Enhance and safe guard the wetland communities
- b. To create place where the local community and visitor to Stourport easily access and wild area and learn about its wonder and value.
- c. To maintain and enhance the broadleaf woodland and scrub communities.
- d. To safe guard any reptile populations
- e. Maintain the scrub habitat
- f. To encourage public involvement in the management and up keep of the site.

18 Proposed Links/ Liaisons With Voluntary Conservation Bodies and Site Users

Wherever possible local community volunteers will be encouraged to assist the staff of the Wyre Forest District Council Ranger Service in maintaining the site.

Regular six monthly forums have been established to involve local people in making decisions on the future management of the site.

Volunteer groups have already begun to carry out physical works to help with the creation of this nature area.

19 Costs

The physical implementation of the sites infrastructure, i.e entrance gates, fencing, boardwalks and interpretation signage has all been funded through a lottery funded BBC Breathing Spaces grant of £6788.00 which was acquired by Stourport Town Council for the delivery of this project. Future ecological maintenance, there after, being provided through the externally funded Wyre Forest GAP (Grazing Animal Project) and the efforts of local community volunteers.

Management objective and Proposals

OBJECTIVE	POLICY	PROPOSAL
Enhance and safe guard the wetland communities	Sustainable environment Local BAP objective	Instigation of Wyre forest GAP project
		Appropriate scrub and tree removal
		Seek to keep the sites setting as natural as possible through the planning process and positive relations with adjoining land owners
To create place where the local community and visitor to Stourport easily access and wild area and learn about its wonder and value.	Public health Community facilities and resources Leisure and recreation	Installation interpretative boards
		Public meetings
		Creation of easy access boardwalk
		Press and publicity
To safe guard any reptile populations	Sustainable environment Local BAP objective	Survey for population
		Appropriate management of habitat
		Education of public re the harmless nature of these animals
To encourage public involvement in the management and up keep of the site.	Public health Community facilities and resources Leisure and recreation	Installation interpretative boards
		Public meetings
		Press and publicity

Figure 1
1-25000 Location Map



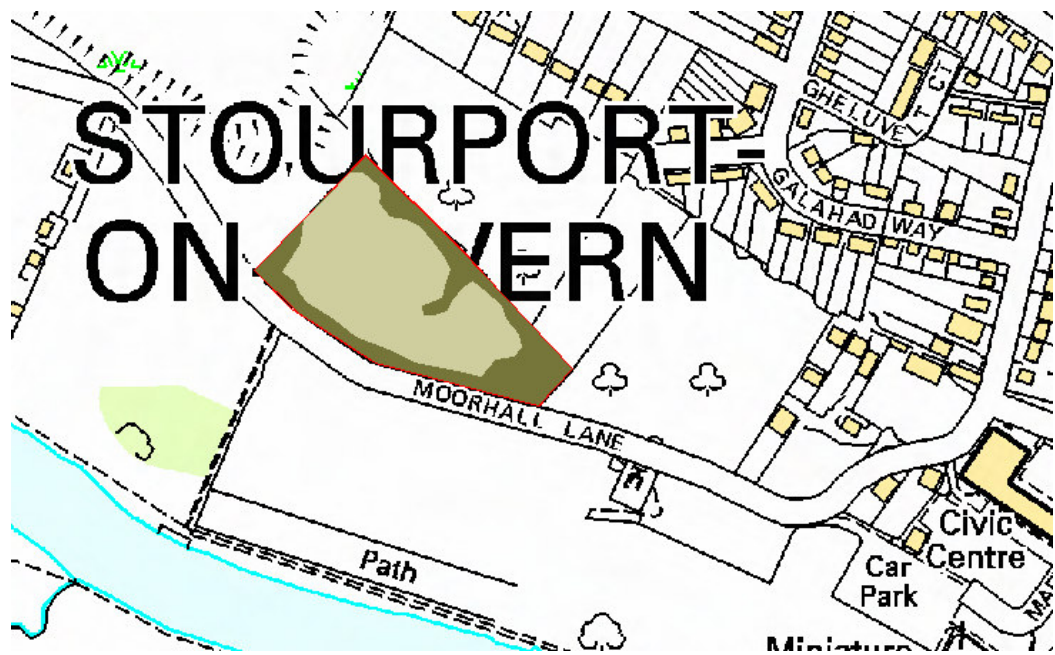
Moorhall Marsh Shown in red and pink

Figure 2
1-5000 Site Boundary Map



Moorhall Marsh Shown in red and pink

Figure 3
Compartment Map



Dark green areas denote Compartment A
Light green areas denote Compartment B

Appendix A

Plant Survey Results

Compartment A

<i>Urtica dioica</i>	-	Common Nettle
<i>Galium aparine</i>	-	Common cleavers
<i>Lamium album</i>	-	White Deadnettle
<i>Salix caprea</i>	-	Goat willow
<i>Quercus robur</i>	-	Oak
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	-	Bramble
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	-	Ash
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	-	Hawthorn
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	-	Cow parsley
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	-	Horse Chestnut
<i>Hedera helix</i>	-	Ivy
<i>Ribes rubrum</i>	-	Red currant
<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	-	Himalayan balsam
<i>Sambucus ebulus</i>	-	Elder
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	-	Bittersweet
<i>Quercus robur</i>	-	Pedunculate Oak
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	-	Common Dandelion
<i>Populus tremula</i>	-	Aspen
<i>Salix fragilis</i>	-	Crack willow
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	-	Alder
<i>Salix sepulcralis</i>	-	Weeping willow
<i>Ulmus procera</i>	-	Elm
<i>Rosa canina</i>	-	Dog rose
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	-	Blackthorn
<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	-	Hedge bindweed
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	-	Sycamore
<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	-	Hedge mustard
<i>Allium ursinum</i>	-	Ramsons
<i>Acer campestre</i>	-	Field maple
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	-	Herb bennet

Compartment B

<i>Galium aparine</i>	-	Common Cleavers
<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	-	Himalayan Balsam
<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	-	Hedge Bindweed
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	-	Common Nettle
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	-	Meadowsweet
<i>Juncus inflexus</i>	-	Hard Rush
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	-	Common sorrel
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	-	Bramble
<i>Lycopus europaeus</i>	-	Gypsywort
<i>Symphytum officinale</i>	-	Comfrey
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	-	Yellow Flag Iris
<i>Typha latifolia</i>	-	Bulrush
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	-	Creeping Buttercup
<i>Polygonum amphibium</i>	-	Bistort
<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	-	Bulbous Buttercup
<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	-	Cuckooflower
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	-	Greater Willowherb
<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	-	Lesser Celandine
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	-	Marsh Marigold
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	-	Broad Leaf dock
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	-	Soft Rush
<i>Galium uliginosum</i>	-	Marshy Bedstraw
<i>Poplar nigra spp</i>	-	Hybrid Black Poplar
<i>Phleum pratense</i>	-	Timothy
<i>Armoracia rusticana</i>	-	Horse-radish
<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>	-	Tufted Hair Grass
<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	-	Silverweed
<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>	-	Angelica
<i>Silena dioica</i>	-	Red Campion