

Checklist of Fish in Leicestershire and Rutland

Compiled by Andrew Heaton, County Recorder for fish, December 2016

1 River Lamprey (Lampern) *Lampetra fluviatilis*

Status: Native. Migrates to and from the sea, breeding in freshwaters; rare, found only in the Gwash and its North Brook tributary. Red Data Book species.

2 Brook Lamprey *Lampetra planeri*

Status: Native. Rare, found only in the Gwash and Chater and smaller Charnwood rivers (including the Black Brook and River Lin). Red Data Book species.

3 Common Sturgeon *Acipenser sturio*

Status: Native but extinct. Previously a rare vagrant to the lower River Soar and River Trent in the nineteenth century.

4 Sterlet *Acipenser ruthenus*

Status: Introduction. One caught in the Ashby Canal near Pares Bridge, July 2010.

5 Atlantic Salmon *Salmo salar*

Status: Native but extinct (until recent reintroduction). Occurred in the lower Soar in the nineteenth century; formerly spawned at Kings Mills, on the Trent at Castle Donington; re-introduced to the Trent catchment in the last few years. Migratory, breeding in gravel beds in freshwaters and spending time at sea. Red Data Book species.

6 Brown Trout *Salmo trutta*

Status: Native. Fairly common in the cleaner rivers and streams, including the upper Soar, Chater and western Sence; mainly introduced/restocked in lakes and rivers, the pure native breeding populations (*Salmo trutta fario*) probably only surviving in fast-flowing streams in Charnwood Forest. Red Data Book species.

7 Rainbow Trout *Oncorhynchus mykiss*

Status: Introduction. Introduced for angling purposes into the western Sence, some Rutland rivers (such as the Gwash and Eye Brook), and lakes.

8 Grayling *Thymallus thymallus*

Status: Native. Uncommon, recorded only from the Gwash, Chater and Welland, and introduced to the western Sence; formerly occurred in the Soar.

9 Pike *Esox lucius*

Status: Native. Common in larger, slow-flowing rivers (especially the Soar, Wreake and Welland), and possibly under-recorded in stillwaters (lakes and canals – strong presence in the Grand Union).

10 **Common Carp** *Cyprinus carpio*

Status: Introduction. Common but under-recorded in lakes (noted at Wanlip Gravel Pits and Snibston Grange), a few records from larger rivers (Soar, Welland) and the Ashby Canal. Forms such as Mirror, Leather, and Ghost (koi x common) probably all present.

11 **Chinese Grass Carp** (White Amur) *Ctenopharyngodon idella*

Status: Introduction. Introduced to at least four sites, including the Oakham Canal.

12 **Crucian Carp** *Carassius carassius*

Status: Possibly native. Uncommon in rivers, found only in the Soar (at Leicester) and Welland; probably common in lakes.

13 **Goldfish** *Carassius auratus*

Status: Introduction. Common in ornamental ponds but few records from the wild (River Soar at Abbey Park, Leicester and the Welland at Bringhurst appear to be the only recorded sightings).

14 **Barbel** *Barbus barbus*

Status: Native. Uncommon, River Soar only. (Also present in the Anker just over the border in Warwickshire).

15 **Gudgeon** *Gobio gobio*

Status: Native. Common, widely distributed in both larger and smaller rivers (notably the Soar, Wreake/Eye and Welland), and in the Grand Union Canal.

16 **Tench** *Tinca tinca*

Status: Native. Records fairly frequent, scattered, mainly from larger rivers, including the lower Soar; apparently well-represented (though under-recorded) in lakes. Tench have been noted in Kirby Muxloe Castle moat.

17 **Silver Bream** (White Bream) *Blicca bjoerkna*

Status: Native. Apparently locally extinct – it is found in other parts of the Trent and Welland but there are no recent records from Vice-county 55.

18 **Common Bream** (Bronze Bream) *Abramis brama*

Status: Native. Fairly common, scattered records in larger rivers (Soar, Wreake, Gwash) and stillwaters including the Grand Union Canal.

19 **Bleak** *Alburnus alburnus*

Status: Native. Uncommon – only regularly found in River Soar, also one site in the Avon.

20 **Minnow** *Phoxinus phoxinus*

Status: Native. Common, widely distributed in rivers and streams, including the Soar, eastern and western Sence, Mease/Gilwiskaw Brook, Rothley Brook and smaller watercourses such as the Sibson Brook and Langton Brook.

21 Topmouth Gudgeon (False Harlequin) *Pseudorasbora parva*

Status: Introduction. One population in a stillwater fishery near Melton Mowbray.

22 Rudd *Scardinius erythrophthalmus*

Status: Native. Fairly uncommon; few scattered records in stillwaters, such as the Grand Union Canal, the isolated section of the Ashby Canal at Moira, and Scraftoft Lake – also few records in the Soar and other large rivers.

23 Roach *Rutilus rutilus*

Status: Native. Common in larger rivers (such as the eastern Sence, Soar and Wreake) and canals (Ashby, Grand Union).

24 Chub *Leuciscus cephalus*

Status: Native. Common in large rivers, including the Soar, Wreake, Welland and eastern and western Sence.

25 Dace *Leuciscus leuciscus*

Status: Native. Common in large and some smaller rivers, notably the Soar, Wreake, Gwash, Welland and western Sence.

26 Orfe *Leuciscus idus*

Status : Introduction. First identified at a Gilmorton fishery in 2010.

27 Spined Loach *Cobitis taenia*

Status: Native. Uncommon but fairly widespread, found especially in the Mease, as well as the western and eastern Sence, Upper Soar, Trent, Anker and Welland, and a few smaller rivers (Swift, Hooborough Brook, Barkby Brook) and at Rutland Water. Red Data Book species.

28 Stone Loach *Noemacheilus barbatulus*

Status: Native, Common and widely distributed in smaller rivers and streams. Including the Swift, Rothley Brook, Gaddesby Brook, Wreake, Mease/Gilwiskaw, eastern and western Sence, Soar, Chater and Charnwood streams

29 Danube Catfish (Wels) *Silurus glanis*

Status: Introduction. Introduced to at least one site, possibly two, in Leicestershire.

30 Armoured Suckermouth Catfish *Hypostomus plecostomus*

Status: Introduction. One caught in the Grand Union Canal at Wigston in 2009.

31 European Eel *Anguilla anguilla*

Status: Native. Migratory, journeying to breed in the sea. A strange distribution in L&R – all around the fringes of the counties (in watercourses such as the Soar at Kegworth, Welland, Gwash/North Brook, Gilwiskaw Brook and Sibson Brook) but rather rarely in the centre. Formerly common but has suffered a recent decline. Red Data Book species.

32 Three-spined Stickleback *Gasterosteus aculeatus*

Status: Native. Common and widely distributed in stillwaters and smaller rivers (including the Mease/Gilwiskaw Brook, Rothley Brook, Swift, eastern and western Sence, Soar, Burleigh Brook and many other small brooks).

33 Nine-spined Stickleback (Ten-spined stickleback) *Pungitius pungitius*

Status: Native. Uncommon, mainly found in the River Soar, and in some small brooks (mainly in Charnwood).

34 Burbot *Lota lota*

Status: Native but extinct in Leicestershire (and in Britain). Occurred in the Trent, the Soar below Loughborough and the Welland in the 19th Century.

35 Perch *Perca fluviatilis*

Status: Native. Common in larger rivers (including the western Sence, Soar, Wreake), also canals (notably the Grand Union) and lakes.

36 Ruffe (Pope) *Gymnocephalus cernua*

Status: Native. Scarce, few widely scattered records, some from large rivers including the eastern Sence and Wreake, others from the Ashby and Grand Union Canals.

37 Zander (Pikeperch) *Stizostedion lucioperca*

Status: Introduction. Uncommon but increasing, found especially in the Ashby Canal and also the Soar at Watermead; also present at Rutland Water.

38 Bullhead (Miller's Thumb) *Cottus gobio*

Current Status: Native. Common and widely distributed in both smaller and larger rivers; found especially in the Soar, Gwash, Chater, Swift, Charnwood streams including Black Brook, Rothley Brook, Wreake, Eye, Langham Brook, eastern and western Sence, Mease/Gilwiskaw, Hooborough Brook, Gaddesby Brook and Sibson Brook. Red Data Book species.