

## Checklist of Fish in Leicestershire and Rutland

Status: native/introduced; common/rare, etc

### **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.

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

Status: Introduction. Introduced to at least three 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 Bringham 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 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.

**27 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

**28 Danube Catfish** (Wels) *Silurus glanis*

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

**29 Armoured Suckermouth Catfish** *Hypostomus plecostomus*

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

**30 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.

**31 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).

**32 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).

**33 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.

**34 Perch** *Perca fluviatilis*

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

**35 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.

**36 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.

**37 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.

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