

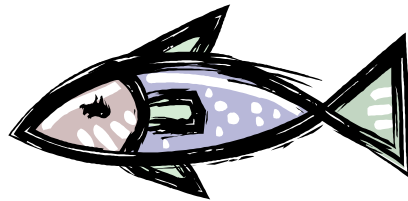
Introductory Pack: Leicestershire and Rutland Fish

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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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Sites to Visit

Cropston Reservoir

Reservoir. STW

Rainbow trout, brown trout, pike

Cossington Meadows

River Soar, ponds, lake. LRWT

Bream, Carp, Nine-spined stickleback, Perch, Pike, Roach, Tench, Three-spined stickleback

Lea Meadows

Stream. LRWT

Brook lamprey, Bullhead, Minnow, Three-spined stickleback, Brown Trout

Mountsorrel Meadows

River Soar, ponds. LRWT

Bleak, Bullhead, Chub, Dace, Gudgeon, Perch, Pike, Roach, Spined loach, Stone loach

Nanpantan Reservoir

Reservoir. STW

Mirror carp, pike, perch, roach, bream, tench

Rutland Water

Reservoir. LRWT/Anglian Water

Eel, pike, brown trout, rainbow trout, carp, crucian carp, chub, dace, roach, rudd, minnow, bream, gudgeon, tench, stone loach, spined loach, three-spined stickleback, nine-spined stickleback, bullhead, perch, ruffe, zander

Swithland Reservoir

Reservoir. STW

Bream, tench, carp, rudd, perch, roach, pike

Thornton Reservoir

Reservoir. STW

Rainbow trout, roach, perch

Contacts

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Leicestershire & Rutland Fish: River Zones

Zone:	Trout Zone	Grayling Zone	Barbel Zone	Bream Zone	Flounder Zone	Stillwaters
Where:	head of river	upper river	middle river	lower river	estuary	widespread
Character:	Not found in L&R (High energy)	Fairly high energy, cold, little plant growth, low nutrients, high oxygen, gravel bed	Slower flow, medium nutrients, meandering, significant plant growth	Slow flowing, warm, high nutrients, silt bed, well vegetated	Not found in L&R (Variably saline)	No flow, size range from small ponds to large gravel pits and reservoirs
Examples:		Western Sence Charnwood rivers	Eye, middle Soar, Mease	Trent, lower Soar, Welland		Watermead, Rutland Water, Merrys Meadow Ponds, Charnwood Lodge Colony reservoir, Ashby Canal
Species:		Grayling Brown trout Bullhead Minnow Stone loach Eel Salmon 3-spined stickleback 9-spined stickleback	Barbel Chub Dace Roach Pike Bleak Perch	Bream Gudgeon Ruffe Spined loach Common carp Roach Pike Tench Perch		3-spined stickleback Perch Roach Pike Crucian carp Common carp Tench Rudd Zander

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Leicestershire and Rutland Fish: Identification Tips

References: Illustrations/diagnostic features can be found in field guides/keys such as:

Croft & Roberts 2006, Everard 2013, Maitland 1972, Miller & Loates 1997, Wheeler 1998

Predominant Back/(Sides) Colour: BR Brown; SL Silver; GR Green; GY Grey; GO Gold; OL Olive; BL Black; PN Pink; (br) in breeding season

Small (0-15 cm)

SL Bleak – upturned mouth and eyes, anal fin longer than dorsal fin

BR Brook Lamprey – sucker, no paired fins
BR Minnow – in shoals, striped sides
BR Spined Loach – cheek spines, rows of spots
BR Stone Loach – camouflage pattern
BR Bullhead – large head, prominent eyes, dorsal fin in 2 distinct parts

OL/GR 3-spined stickleback – 3 spines before dorsal fin, red belly (br)

GR 9-spined stickleback – 9/10 spines before dorsal fin, barring, black belly (br)

Medium (15-50 cm)

SL Grayling – sail-like dorsal fin
SL Silver Bream – large silver scales, hump, large eye
SL Roach – orange-red fins
SL Dace – concave anal fin

BR Crucian Carp – bronze
BR Rudd – blood-red fins
BR/GR Gudgeon – 1 pair barbels

GR Chub – convex anal fin

GR Perch – stripes down body, dorsal fin in 2 distinct parts

GR Ruffe – dorsal fin in 2 sections but joined

GY River Lamprey – sucker, no paired fins

GO Goldfish – gold (but reverts to natural colour)

Medium/large (40-100 cm)

BR Brown Trout – adipose fin, red eye-spots
BR Grass Carp – cylindrical, prominent scales, golden sides
BR Common Bream – deep body

GR Tench – rounded fins, red eyes, pair barbels
GR Zander – long body, sharp teeth, dorsal fin in 2 distinct parts

Large (> 50 cm)

SL Salmon – dark spots, adipose fin
BR Common Carp – bulky, back sticks out of water (br)
BR Barbel – cigar shape, 2 pairs barbels
BR/BL Eel – snake-like body form

GR Pike – large toothed mouth, fins towards rear
OL Sturgeon – huge size, row of bony plates
GY Wels – large size, large head, 3 pairs barbels

PN Rainbow Trout – red/pink colour on flanks, black spots, spots on tail

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