

**LEICESTERSHIRE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

**INVERTEBRATE RECORDING AT  
THE WILDERNESS, STAUNTON HAROLD  
- RESULTS OF SURVEY WORK DURING 1995**

*by*

*Members of the Leicestershire Ecology Unit  
and Leicestershire Entomological Society*

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The Wilderness is a small area of woodland included in the estate of Staunton Harold Hall in north-west Leicestershire (SK379207). As early as 1706 a wilderness area is shown on an engraved view of Staunton Harold by Kip and "The Wilderness" is named on the Ordnance Survey map of 1882 which indicates the presence of deciduous and coniferous trees and marshy areas. Late in the 1950s the area was cleared and replanted in part with poplars. Clues as to what this ancient, wet woodland might have been like are provided by coppice stems arising from ancient lime stools and occasional yew trees. The woodland flora is botanically rich and reflects the map evidence that it is a site of woodland of some antiquity, the species present suggesting a moist calcareous type. The ancient woodland indicator species include dog's mercury, bluebell, wood anemone and primrose. Ornamental plants, such as dwarf bamboo and periwinkle, have invaded. These latter are not controlled and in some parts of the site are a threat to indigenous ground flora.

## **THE 1995 SURVEY**

At the request of Chris Burnett Associates, acting on behalf of the managers of the estate, the Leicestershire Ecology Unit was approached to undertake, primarily, an invertebrate survey of The Wilderness. The help of members of the Leicestershire Entomological Society (which includes staff at the Leicestershire Ecology Unit) was sought in aiding this survey work.

The report presented below is based upon that produced by the Leicestershire Ecology Unit for their client and is reproduced with their permission.. The LES is grateful for this opportunity to disseminate this data to a wider audience as part of their policy to publish invertebrate data in Leicestershire and Rutland for research purposes.

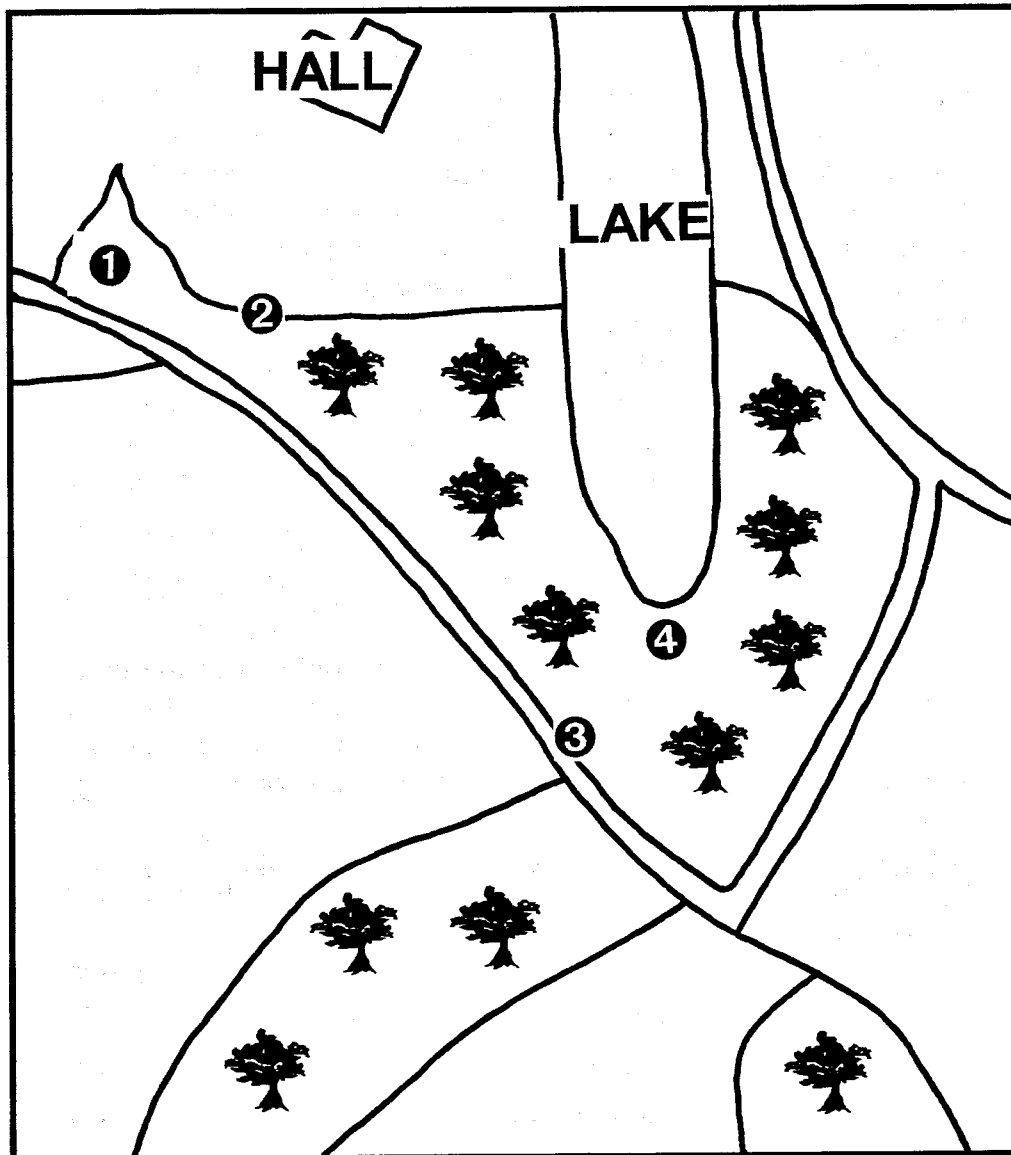
[It should be noted that the site is privately owned and access is only by arrangement.]

## **CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS REPORT**

Moth traps were run by Graham Finch, Anona Finch, Jane McPhail, Ray Morris and Adrian Russell. Beetle records were collected by Derek Lott whilst other records, particularly of the flora, were gathered by John Mousley, Steve Grover and Jane McPhail.

## ECOLOGICAL SURVEYS OF THE SITES USED FOR MOTH TRAPPING

Moth traps were run in three parts of The Wilderness on two occasions (24th June and 15th July 1995) with two light traps being run on the first occasion and three on the second. The survey for beetles was conducted on 23rd June 1995. Floral surveys were conducted on several other occasions. The map below indicates the position of the light traps on the site with the beetle survey area also being shown.



1, 2, 3  
4

Moth trapping sites  
Beetle survey area

***The Wilderness, Staunton Harold***

**Moth trap site 1:** the western-most corner of the woodland with a mixture of mature tree species. Oak is dominant with horse chestnut, ash, yew, Norway spruce, pine and birch. The shrub layer is dominated by elder with holly, hawthorn and sycamore whilst snowberry occurs along the paths. Common nettle is the dominant species in the ground flora with frequent red campion. Also present are wood anemone, bluebell, lesser celandine, bramble and germander speedwell together with patches of wood meadow grass and creeping soft-grass. Other plants in the vicinity of the trap were enchanter's nightshade, common figwort, comfrey and ivy-leaved speedwell. Trapping took place here on both occasions.

**Moth trap site 2:** this is an area of mixed woodland with a patchy canopy due to removal of diseased elm trees. Species present included yew, sycamore, ash and oak with a shrub layer of hawthorn, elm scrub, young sycamore, ash, horse chestnut, elder and snowberry. In the ground flora there are patches of dog's mercury, ramsons, ivy, lesser celandine, bramble, garlic mustard, cuckoo pint, enchanter's nightshade, herb robert, white dead-nettle, common lime and common nettle. Trapping was carried out here only on 24th June 1995.

**Moth trap site 3:** this area is at the south-eastern part of the wood and borders the boundary road. Mainly a poplar plantation with some young oak and dense elder. The ground flora is dominated by grasses particularly creeping soft-grass. Locally abundant or frequent are common nettle, bramble, rosebay willowherb and dog's mercury. There is a patch of coppiced hazel with bluebell and wood anemone. Silver birch, hawthorn, common hemp nettle, creeping soft-grass, lesser celandine and blackthorn are interspersed in the hazel coppice. Trapping took place here on both occasions.

## MOTH TRAP RESULTS

The total number of moth species trapped at The Wilderness on the two occasions was 134 of which 42 were "micro" species. The species recorded were mainly common and their presence was to be expected in a woodland with the floral diversity exhibited by The Wilderness. One species, *Triaxomera fulvimitrella* is the third specimen for Leicestershire as far as records indicate (McPhail, 1993) the previous records being one from Leicester in 1883 (Sang 1883) and another by Adrian Russell from Great Merrible Wood in 1985. For some species, The Wilderness seems to be a new locality e.g. *Batia lunaris*, *Epinotia subocellana*.

The following list details the species recorded at The Wilderness during 1995.

B&F No	Species	24/6/96	16/7/96	Comments
0014	<i>Hepialus humuli</i>		*	Frequent and widespread
0017	<i>Hepialus lupulinus</i>	*		Common and widespread
0148	<i>Nemophora degeerella</i>	*		Few previous records
0225	<i>Triaxomera fulvimitrella</i>	*		Third county record
0246	<i>Tinea semifulvella</i>		*	Sixth county record
0410	<i>Argyresthia brockeella</i>		*	Fifth county record
0425	<i>Yponomeuta padella</i>		*	Common and widespread
0460	<i>Ypsolopha parentesella</i>		*	Widespread but ?under-recorded
0640	<i>Batia lunaris</i>		*	Fourth county site
0647	<i>Hofmannophila pseudospretella</i>	*		Common and widespread
0658	<i>Carcina quercana</i>		*	Common and widespread
0937	<i>Agapeta hamana</i>		*	Common and widespread
0970	<i>Pandemis cerasana</i>	*	*	Common but western distribution
0972	<i>Pandemis heparana</i>		*	Widespread and common
0980	<i>Archips xylosteana</i>		*	Southern distribution
0989	<i>Aphelia paleana</i>	*		Widespread and frequent
0993	<i>Clepsis spectrana</i>	*		Mainly south-west and Rutland
0994	<i>Clepsis consimiliana</i>		*	Widepread and frequent
1011	<i>Pseudargyrotozoa conwagana</i>	*	*	Widespread and frequent; southern
1014	<i>Isotrias rectifasciana</i>	*		Fifth county record
1021	<i>Cnephasia interjectana</i>	*	*	Widespread and frequent
1024	<i>Cnephasia incertana</i>	*		Fifth county record
1033	<i>Tortrix viridana</i>	*	*	Common and mainly western
1036	<i>Croesia forsskaeana</i>		*	Common and widespread
1076	<i>Olethreutes lacunana</i>		*	Common and widespread
1083	<i>Hedya nubiferana</i>	*		Widepread and common
1086	<i>Hedya salicella</i>		*	Fairly widespread
1093	<i>Apotomis betuletana</i>	*		Frequent but westerly
1115	<i>Ancylis achatana</i>		*	Frequent but westerly
1132	<i>Epinotia subocellana</i>	*		Fourth county record, third site
1201	<i>Eucosma cana</i>	*		Common but southern
1293	<i>Chrysoteuchia culmella</i>	*	*	Common and widespread
1302	<i>Crambus perlella</i>		*	Common and widespread
1304	<i>Agriphila straminella</i>		*	Common and widespread
1333	<i>Scoparia pyralella</i>	*		Sixth county record
1334	<i>Scoparia ambigualis</i>		*	Common and widespread
1338	<i>Dipleurina lacustrata</i>		*	Widespread but not common
1376	<i>Eurrhyncha hortulata</i>	*	*	Common and widespread
1388	<i>Udea lutealis</i>		*	Common and widespread
1392	<i>Udea olivalis</i>	*	*	Common and widespread
1405	<i>Pleuroptya ruralis</i>		*	Very common and widespread
1413	<i>Hypsopygia costalis</i>		*	Very common and widespread
1428	<i>Aphomia sociella</i>		*	Widespread and common
1513	<i>Pterophorus pentadactyla</i>		*	Common but mainly westerly
1640	<i>Phildoria potatoria</i>		*	Common and widespread

B&F No	Species	24/6/96	16/7/96	Comments
1652	<i>Thyatira batis</i>	*	*	Frequent and widespread
1653	<i>Habrosyne pyritoides</i>	*	*	Common and widespread
1654	<i>Tethea ocularis</i>		*	Frequent and widespread
1666	<i>Geometra papilionaria</i>		*	Frequent and widespread
1669	<i>Hemithoa aestivaria</i>	*		Frequent and widespread
1674	<i>Jodis lactearia</i>	*		Frequent and widespread
1682	<i>Timandra griseata</i>	*		Common and widespread
1690	<i>Scopula imitaria</i>		*	Frequent and widespread
1702	<i>Idaea biselata</i>		*	Frequent and widespread
1708	<i>Idaea dimidiata</i>		*	Frequent and widespread
1713	<i>Idaea aversata</i>	*	*	Common and widespread
1726	<i>Xanthorhoe quadrifasciata</i>		*	Frequent and widespread
1727	<i>Canthorhoe montanata</i>	*		Common and widespread
1728	<i>Xanthorhoe fluctuata</i>	*		Common and widespread
1738	<i>Epirhoe alternata</i>		*	Common and widespread
1758	<i>Eulithis pyraliata</i>		*	Frequent and widespread
1762	<i>Chloroclysta citrata</i>	*		Frequent and widespread
1764	<i>Chloroclysta truncata</i>	*		Common and widespread
1765	<i>Cidaria fulvata</i>		*	Frequent and widespread
1773	<i>Electrophaes corylata</i>	*		Common and widespread
1776	<i>Colostygia pectinataria</i>		*	Common and widespread
1777	<i>Hydriomena furcata</i>	*	*	Common and widespread
1778	<i>Hydriomena impluviata</i>	*		Frequent and widespread
1802	<i>Perizoma affinitatum</i>	*	*	Common and widespread
1803	<i>Perizoma alchemillata</i>		*	Common and widespread
1809	<i>Perizoma didymata</i>		*	Common and widespread
1834	<i>Eupithecia vulgata</i>	*		Common and widespread
1860	<i>Chloroclystis rectangulata</i>	*	*	Frequent and widespread
1887	<i>Lomaspiis marginata</i>	*	*	Common and widespread
1906	<i>Opisthograptis luteolata</i>	*	*	Very common and widespread
1917	<i>Selenia dentaria</i>		*	Common and widespread
1921	<i>Crocallis elinguaris</i>		*	Common and widespread
1922	<i>Ourapteryx sambucaria</i>		*	Common and widespread
1931	<i>Biston betularia</i>	*	*	Common and widespread
1937	<i>Peribatodes rhomboidaria</i>		*	Common and widespread
1941	<i>Alcis repandata</i>	*	*	Common and widespread
1947	<i>Ectropis bistortata</i>		*	Common and widespread
1955	<i>Cabera pusaria</i>	*		Common and widespread
1958	<i>Lomographa temerata</i>	*		Common and widespread
1961	<i>Campaea margaritata</i>	*	*	Common and widespread
1962	<i>Hylaea fasciaria</i>		*	Frequent and widespread
1994	<i>Phalera bucephala</i>		*	Common and widespread
2000	<i>Notodonta dromedarius</i>	*	*	Common and widespread
2006	<i>Pheosia gnoma</i>	*	*	Common and widespread
2007	<i>Pheosia tremula</i>	*	*	Common and widespread

B&F No	Species	24/6/96	16/7/96	Comments
2011	<i>Pterostoma palpina</i>	*		Common and widespread
2030	<i>Euproctis similis</i>		*	Common and widespread
2031	<i>Leucoma salicis</i>		*	Frequent and widespread
2050	<i>Eilema lurideola</i>		*	Common and frequent
2061	<i>Spilosoma luteum</i>	*		Common and widespread
2064	<i>Phragmatobia fuliginosa</i>		*	Frequent and widespread
2077	<i>Nola cucullatella</i>		*	Frequent and widespread
2089	<i>Agrotis exclamationis</i>	*	*	Very common and widespread
2098	<i>Axylia putris</i>	*	*	Common and widespread
2102	<i>Ochropleura plecta</i>	*		Common and widespread
2107	<i>Noctua pronuba</i>	*	*	Very common and widespread
2114	<i>Graphiphora augur</i>		*	Frequent and widespread
2120	<i>Diarsia medica</i>	*		Common and widespread
2126	<i>Xestia c-nigrum</i>		*	Common and widespread
2128	<i>Xestia triangulum</i>		*	Frequent and widespread
2138	<i>Anaplectoides prasina</i>	*	*	Widespread but not common
2160	<i>Lacanobia oleracea</i>		*	Common and widespread
2193	<i>Mythimna ferrago</i>		*	Frequent and widespread
2198	<i>Mythimna impura</i>		*	Frequent and widespread
2225	<i>Brachyomia viminalis</i>		*	Frequent and widespread
2278	<i>Acronicta megacephala</i>	*	*	Frequent and widespread
2284	<i>Acronicta psi</i>		*	Common and widespread
2305	<i>Euplexia lucipara</i>	*		Frequent and widespread
2306	<i>Phlogophora meticulosa</i>	*		Common and widespread
2314	<i>Energia ypsilon</i>		*	Frequent and widespread
2318	<i>Cosmia trapezina</i>		*	Frequent and widespread
2321	<i>Apamea monoglypha</i>	*	*	Common and widespread
2334	<i>Apamea sordens</i>	*		Common and widespread
2337	<i>Oligia strigilis</i>	*	*	Common and widespread
2338	<i>Oligia versicolor</i>		*	Common and widespread
2339	<i>Oligia latruncula</i>	*		Frequent and widespread
2340	<i>Oligia fasciuncula</i>	*		Common and widespread
2345	<i>Photodes minima</i>		*	Frequent and widespread
2381	<i>Hoplodrina alaines</i>		*	Frequent and widespread
2421	<i>Bena prasinana</i>		*	Frequent and widespread
2434	<i>Diachrysis chrysitis</i>		*	Common and widespread
2437	<i>Polychrysis moneta</i>	*		Frequent and widespread
2442	<i>Autographa pulchrina</i>	*	*	Common and widespread
2443	<i>Autographa jota</i>		*	Frequent and widespread
2450	<i>Abrostola triplasia</i>	*		Common and widespread
2469	<i>Scoliopteryx libatrix</i>		*	Frequent and widespread
2477	<i>Hypena proboscidalis</i>	*	*	Common and widespread
2489	<i>Herminia tarsipennalis</i>	*		Common and widespread
2492	<i>Herminia nemoralis</i>	*	*	Common and widespread

## BEETLE RESULTS

The Wilderness was visited on 23rd June 1995 when three beetle communities were surveyed (area 4 on map).

**Beetle site 1:** a wetland community associated with the seasonally dry southern end of the lake (SK380206 to SK380207) surveyed by timed hand-collecting at six stations. The collection points ranged from bare shaded mud at the bottom of a shallow ditch through stands of yellow flag to *Carex* fen right at the edge of the lake.

The species recorded at this site are typical of undisturbed wetland habitats. In many ways it is similar to the range of beetle species which may be found in wet fen and carr which tends to dry out during the summer leaving large amounts of vegetable litter. One of the species recorded, *Cercyon convexiusculus*, is a nationally (Nb) scarce beetle which is widespread in Leicestershire having been recorded from 37 1km squares (Lott, 1995). *Bembidion doris*, however, occurs at only a few sites in the county being particularly abundant at Saddington Reservoir (Lott, 1995).

**Beetle site 2:** the dead wood community was surveyed by Tullgren Funnel extraction from a sample of dead wood in a large rotten log at SK380205 and by beating flowers and dead branches between SK380205 and SK380207.

There was a rich range of species found in this part of the beetle survey with all species being both widespread and characteristic of twigs and small branches or logs in advanced stages of decay. Although the extensive stand of poplars was not sampled, it is likely that as these decay a further rich assemblage of dead-wood species will come to light.

**Beetle site 3:** the woodland feeders and predators were surveyed by beating and sweeping along the network of paths between SK380205 and SK380207.

The species recorded at this site were typical of such habitats with only *Dorytomus tortrix*, a species associated with poplars, being of interest. Recent records of this beetle have apparently only come from Buddon Wood and Pickworth Great Wood.

The accompanying list of species indicates local rarity using a geometric index where 1 is widespread and 64 is rare. This index is based upon the occurrence of a species in 1km squares in Leicestershire and adjacent areas.



Family	Species	National status	Local status	Comments
Carabidae	<i>Agonum albipes</i>		1	Site 1
	<i>Agonum fuliginosum</i>		1	Site 1
	<i>Amara plebej</i>		1	Site 1
	<i>Bembidion dentellum</i>		1	Site 1
	<i>Bembidion doris</i>		16	Site 1; three other county sites
	<i>Bembidion lunulatum</i>		1	Site 1
	<i>Bembidion harpaloides</i>		4	Site 3
	<i>Elaphrus cupreus</i>		2	Site 1
	<i>Pterostichus minor</i>		2	Site 1
Hydrophilidae	<i>Anacaena globulus</i>		1	Site 1
	<i>Cercyon convexiusculus</i>	Nb	2	Site 1; common in Leicestershire
Staphylinidae	<i>Amischa forcipata</i>		8	Site 1
	<i>Anotylus rufosus</i>		1	Site 1
	<i>Atheta elongatula</i>		2	Site 1
	<i>Atheta fungi</i>		1	Site 1
	<i>Atheta graminicola</i>		1	Site 1
	<i>Atheta malleus</i>		2	Site 1
	<i>Atrecus affinis</i>		4	Site 2
	<i>Carpelimus bilineatus</i>		2	Site 1
	<i>Carpelimus corticinus</i>		2	Site 1
	<i>Carpelimus impressus</i>		4	Site 1
	<i>Carpelimus rivularis</i>		1	Site 1
	<i>Chiloporata longitarsis</i>		1	Site 2
	<i>Gabrius splendidulus</i>		4	Site 2
	<i>Lathrobium brunnipes</i>		1	Site 1
	<i>Lesteva heeri</i>		2	Site 1
	<i>Pachnida nigella</i>		4	Site 1
	<i>Philonthus varius</i>		2	Site 1
	<i>Quedius maurorufus</i>		2	Site 1
	<i>Stenus bifoveolatus</i>		4	Site 1
	<i>Stenus bimaculatus</i>		1	Site 1
<i>Stenus boops</i>		1	Site 1	
<i>Stenus flavipes</i>		4	Site 1	
<i>Stenus junco</i>		1	Site 1	
Scirtidae	<i>Cyphon coarctatus</i>		8	Site 1
	<i>Microcara testacea</i>		4	Site 1
Chrysomelidae	<i>Chaetocnema concinna</i>		2	Site 1
	<i>Donacia simplex</i>		8	Site 1
	<i>Oulema melanopa</i>		2	Site 1
	<i>Phaedon cochleariae</i>		2	Site 1
Histeridae	<i>Abraeus globosus</i>		4	Site 2
Ptiliidae	<i>Ptinella errabunda</i>		4	Site 2
Elateridae	<i>Denticollis linearis</i>		8	Site 2
	<i>Agriotes pallidulus</i>		2	Site 3
Cantharidae	<i>Rhagonycha lignosa</i>		4	Site 3

Family	Species	National status	Local status	Comments
Chrysomelidae	<i>Chalcoides fulvicornis</i>		2	Site 3
	<i>Phyllotreta undulata</i>		4	Site 3
Curculionidae	<i>Dorytomus tortrix</i>		32	Site 3
	<i>Polydrusus pterygomalis</i>		8	Site 3
Scraptiidae	<i>Anaspis maculata</i>		2	Site 2
	<i>Anaspis regimbarti</i>		4	Site 2

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