



Swaddywell Nature Trail



Swaddywell History

Swaddywell Pit is the Langdyke Countryside Trusts' first nature reserve established in 2003.

It takes its name from a nearby spring where reputedly an ancient sword was once found. Over time Swordy Well became Swaddywell and the spring itself probably now lies beneath King Street.

In medieval times quarries such as Swaddywell would have provided stone for local churches and for the great cathedrals at Ely and Peterborough. More recently Swaddywell has had a chequered history – one of England's very first nature reserves in the early 20th Century it then became in turn a quarry, bomb dump, landfill tip and race track.

Share your findings with us on social media:

Langdyke Countryside Trust (public group)



@langdykeCT



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How many of the plants and animals can you spot from this list in the reserve?

Each thing has been given a rating of how difficult it might be to find, ranging from

EASY
MEDIUM
TRICKY

You will find a range of wildlife living within this site, including: birds, mammals, insects, amphibians and plants. Some of them are commonly found and others are quite special and protected. Each season brings something new to the reserve so be sure to visit throughout the year to watch how things change.

Registered Charity No. 1180626

Medium



Eyebright: This tiny little white flower was used for treating eye infections.

Medium



Meadow Grasshopper: Usually green but look out for this pink variation.

Easy



Coot: Listen for them calling from the reeds & splashing around in the water.

Tricky



Labyrinth Spider: The spider might be difficult to spot but the webs are more obvious.

Medium



Reed bunting: As the name suggests look out for these within reeds & near water.

Medium



Red kite: Can be seen soaring high on thermals on a hot summers day.

Tricky



Small red-eyed damselfly: Females eyes more brown in colour.

Medium



Comma: White marking on underside of this butterfly's wing resembles a comma.

Easy



Peacock: The eyespots help this butterfly confuse & startle its predators.

Medium



Cinnabar Caterpillar: Almost always found on ragwort plant.

Tricky



Emperor Dragonfly: This formidable predator catches & eats its prey on the wing.

Medium



Common red soldier beetles: Usually to be found on open-structured flowers.

Easy



Banded Snail: Keep an eye out for these after it's been raining.

Easy



Teasel: Water collects in the leaves and traps insects.

Easy



Marjoram: The leaves from this pretty flower can be used in cooking.

Medium



Wild carrot: Look for the single red flower in the centre.

Easy



Ants: Huge colonies can be found under refugia & some can fly..

Tricky



Common lizard: Catch a glimpse of one basking on a hot day.