

# South Taunton Watercourses Local Nature Reserve

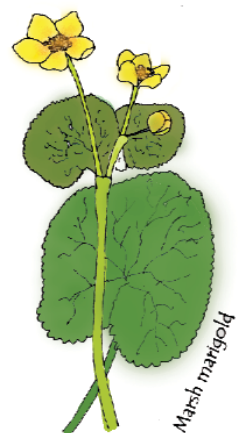
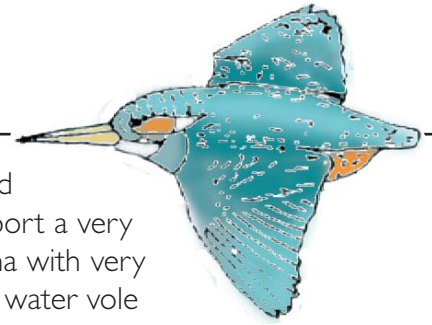
South Taunton Streams Local Nature Reserve is a series of wetland habitats along three watercourses to the south of Taunton – the Black Brook, Galmington Stream and Mill Stream. The watercourses flow northwards to the River Tone and are associated with a number of ponds, tributaries, species-rich grassland and woodland. Significant areas of open public space are linked by wildlife corridors, public footpaths and cycleways.

The watercourses flow northwards through urban areas to their eventual confluences with the River Tone. They are associated with a number of ponds, tributaries and other wetland habitats and have several adjacent areas of species-rich grassland, woodland and hedgerow. A number of species of nature conservation importance occur within these habitats.

The watercourses and wetland habitats support a very diverse flora and fauna with very significant colonies of water vole (*Arvicola terrestris*) in several locations. Numbers of this animal are thought to be declining faster than any other mammal in Britain. (See the water vole leaflet available from the Deane House).

Otters (*Lutra lutra*) are also recorded along the brooks and streams and kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*), grey wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*), sand martin (*Riparia riparia*) and dipper (*Cinclus cinclus*) regularly occur.

White-clawed crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*) were formerly present and great crested newts (*Triturus cristatus*) has been recorded in the vicinity and may be present in some of the ponds.



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A number of significant fish species are present including brook lamprey (*Lampetra planeri*), while most of the locally occurring dragonfly and damselfly species can be found including white-legged damselfly (*Platycnemis pennipes*).

The white admiral butterfly (*Ladoga camilla*) has also been recorded on one wooded section of the Sherford Stream.

The linear wetland habitats appear to be very important foraging areas for bats especially pipistrelles (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus* & *P. nathussii*), lesser horseshoe (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*) and noctule (*Nyctalus noctula*).



The watercourses also contain important archaeological, built and cultural heritage features. Management of Taunton Deane Borough Council sites are being modified to enhance their nature conservation value while other riparian owners are encouraged to manage their waterside land sympathetically.

### Useful Contacts

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