

# Going Wild in Ferndale Park

The recent community survey seeking resident's views about Ferndale Park revealed 'nature' as the highest priority. Ratby Parish Council is keen to do what it can to help nature recovery across all of the parish, starting with Ferndale Park.

Over the next few months, some of the mown grass will be allowed to grow as a meadow and local charity NatureSpot will monitor the wildflowers, grasses and visiting wildlife. Over time, additional wildflowers will be introduced, native trees and shrubs will be planted, parts of the brook will be widened and a nature trail established.

These new wildlife habitats will offer Park visitors more opportunities to have contact with nature and will provide vital new homes for a wide range of wildlife.

Ferndale Park has its own 'Wild Place' page on the NatureSpot website where you can catch up with the latest wildlife records: [www.naturespot.org/Ratby\\_Ferndale\\_Park](http://www.naturespot.org/Ratby_Ferndale_Park)



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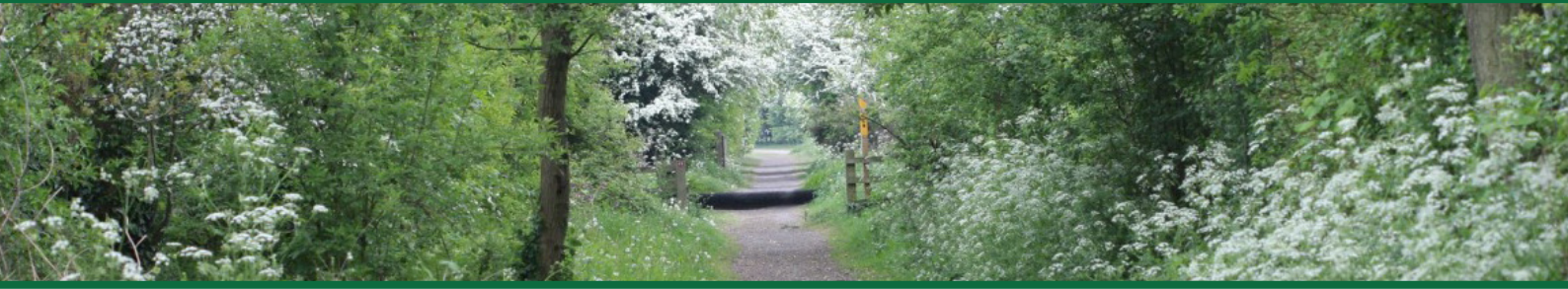
**Did you know?** The flood relief pond and surrounding wildflower meadow in the northern corner of Ferndale Park has already been designated a Local Wildlife Site by Leicestershire County Council due to its many wildflower species and rich habitat.



Ratby Parish Council is actively supporting Leicestershire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy – an ambitious plan to boost the county's wildlife and natural spaces. Biodiversity is one of the key responsibilities given to Councillors. Ratby Parish Council will review all the areas it has responsibility for, in order to identify opportunities to help wildlife, whilst also benefitting local residents.



# Wildlife in Ratby



Ratby supports an amazing variety of wildlife. Historic hedgerows, ancient woodland, flower-rich meadow grassland, ponds, waterways and many gardens, together provide a rich tapestry of wildlife habitats.

**Did you know?** The combined woodlands of Martinshaw, Burroughs, Pear Tree and others give Ratby the largest area of continuous woodland cover in Leicestershire. The Rothley Brook and its associated flood plain is a vital wildlife corridor. There are **42** sites in Ratby parish that have been identified as designated or potential Local Wildlife Sites because they are amongst the most important habitats in the County.

Local charity **NatureSpot** is based in Ratby and its award-winning website is all about the wildlife and wild places of Leicestershire and Rutland. It also

encourages the public to submit records of any wildlife sightings. All records received from Ratby are automatically added to the Ratby parish page and help to build up our knowledge of local wildlife and ecology. The more data we have, the more importance can be given to the area. If you'd like to help, just register on the NatureSpot website and use the Submit Records link.

Visit NatureSpot's Ratby page to view the latest wildlife sightings and images, plus links to other feature pages of wildlife interest sites around the village. Ratby has the second largest number of species of any parish in Leicestershire, with over **2,300** different plants, animals and fungi recorded so far – with more being regularly added.

[www.naturespot.org/parish/ratby](http://www.naturespot.org/parish/ratby)



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**NatureSpot**  
wildlife and wild places of Leicestershire & Rutland

Discover  
Identify  
Record

Become a NatureSpotter! Use the NatureSpot app or website to submit your wildlife sightings. Your records and photos will be added to the Ratby page and will contribute to conservation.



## Interested in local wildlife?



If you live in Ratby and are interested in wildlife then we would love to hear from you – whether to just share ideas, to help monitor wildlife or lend a hand practically. You can get in touch by simply emailing [hello@riseforratby.org.uk](mailto:hello@riseforratby.org.uk)