

TYSOE NATURE MAP

- NATIONAL TRAIL
- FOOTPATH
- TYSOE PARISH



1 RADWAY MEADOWS

2 WESTCOTE MANOR FARM

3 SUN RISING NATURAL
BURIAL GROUND
& NATURE RESERVE

5 SCHOOL LANE
MIDDLE
TYSOE

4 ARABLE FIELD
MARGINS

6 ST MARY'S
CHURCHYARD

LOWER
TYSOE

UPPER
TYSOE

A422

A422

RADWAY

Battlefields Trail

OXHILL

Oxhill Road

Straight Mile

Centenary Way

EDGEHILL ESCARPMENT

WOODLAND WILDFLOWER &
WILDLIFE SITES

SHENINGTON

Shenington Road
WILDFLOWER FIELD,
NEW WOODLAND

Epwell Road

Shenington Road

COMMUNITY
ORCHARD

COMPTON
WYNVATES





TYSOE NATURE MAP

Welcome to the Parish of Tysoe and a map showing some of our best sites for wildlife, all of which are accessible using the roads and footpaths.



Designed by Debbie McLaughlin in damdesign.org.uk



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OTHER AREAS IN THE PARISH

Many of the verges took part in No Mow May and several areas have been allocated to wildflowers, including the verges close to hedgerows in the playing fields. The Community Orchard contains a wide variety of fruit trees and bushes. There are at least four privately-owned wildlife areas within or on the periphery of the Parish.

LOCAL BIRDS

Summer birds include migrants such as Blackcap, Chiff Chaff and Willow Warbler. Swallows and Swifts nest locally, but House Martins have declined. Cuckoos are much rarer than they used to be. Birds of prey have increased over the last 15-20 years, with Red Kites now competing with Buzzards for food. Sparrowhawks do well, but Kestrels are less common.

Tawny Owls can be heard in the autumn and in winter Barn Owls can be seen hunting along the verges. Resident Blackbirds, Robins and Starlings are joined by European visitors in winter such as Redwing and Fieldfare, cousins of resident Song and Mistle Thrushes. In the fields, Skylarks can be heard in the summer. Yellowhammers breed well locally, and Dummies can be seen skulking in the hedgerows.

In the woods, Blue, Great and Coal Tits do well, along with Nuthatches and the occasional Treecreeper.

Greater Spotted and Green Woodpeckers are widely seen and heard. House Sparrows do well, and rare Tree Sparrows are resident in parts of the parish.

4 ARABLE FIELD MARGINS – UPTON ESTATE



The Upton Estate covers about 1,850 acres of arable, grass and woodland between the villages of Tysoe, Radway and Ailerton. The ethos of the Estate is to manage the land in a sustainable way, enhancing biodiversity and soil health. On the arable land Upton grows a wide rotation of crops, applying organic manures to the land to improve soil health and practicing low till and no till farming to reduce its carbon footprint.

The woodland is actively managed to maintain the health of the trees, the vistas in the landscape and provide wood chip for renewable heat. Upton subscribes to the Government's Environmental Stewardship Scheme which aims to improve the habitats for birds and insects as well as reducing soil erosion and widening the variety of habitats, and is Leaf Marque accredited. In the last 15 years Upton has planted 2 km of new hedges and restored a further 6.5 km. Every year 11 plants 7 hectares of wild bird feed mix to give small birds feed over winter, 4 hectares of nectar flower mixes to support pollinators and 17 hectares of flower rich margins and plots. It also puts 30 skylark plots in the arable fields.

5 SCHOOL LANE – MIDDLE TYSOE



This wide verge has been managed as a wildflower area since spring 2020. In the first year, the plants already present were allowed to grow and flower and consisted of Yarrow, Oxeye Daisies, Birds Foot Trefoil, Mullein and some other common species. Yellow Rattle seeds were sown in some areas in autumn 2020 and further wildflower seeds were added in spring 2021. The aim is to mow the area twice a year and remove the cuttings for compost.

6 ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD – MIDDLE TYSOE



Two marked wildflower plots were prepared in late summer 2019 and the plot nearest the church was sown with Yellow Rattle and some green hay from the churchyard at Olberrow. These were allowed to grow and flower in 2020 and were cut in September. More Yellow Rattle was sown in autumn 2020 and further wildflower seeds were sown in spring 2021, many collected from local verges. Several areas around the trees have been left for wildlife and include patches of Shining Nettles for the approximately 100 species that use this plant as a food source. A wildlife hedge consisting of mixed native species was planted in winter 2020-21.

Welcome to the Parish of Tysoe, located at the northern end of the Cotswolds National Landscape on the border of Warwickshire and Oxfordshire.

The parish includes the village of Upper and Middle Tysoe and the hamlet of Lower Tysoe. The parish is well-served by a network of footpaths and two well-known long-distance footpaths – the Centenary Way and Maernllan Way – meet in the parish. The parish is set in an agricultural landscape with pasture for sheep and cattle, a range of arable crops and a small amount of deciduous woodland. There are some notable examples of ridge and furrow pasture.

Our ambition is to turn Tysoe into a wildlife-friendly parish by providing more spaces for nature. We started in 2019 when St Mary's Church agreed to develop part of the churchyard into a wildlife friendly area and we plan to scale up our activity over the coming years, improve habitats and increase the connectivity for wildlife, linking with the surrounding countryside. Some of the key areas supporting wildlife are described below.

1 RADWAY MEADOWS

This nature reserve is managed by the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust. Sloping fields (19 ha) sit in an historic Civil War Landscape, beneath the wooded escarpment of Edge Hill. It consists of two meadows and a stream bordered by ancient hedgerows. The hedgerows may be 400 years old with a mix of Oak, Ash and English Elm. This is neutral grassland with Yellow Rattle, Dropwort, Rough Hawkbit, Adder's Tongue Fern and the grasses, Crested Dog's Tail and Sweet Vernal Grass. There is a boggy area with wetland plants.

2 WESTCOTE MANOR FARM

The footpath from King John's Lane crossing Radway Meadows continues on through some privately owned meadows. These contain many of the species in Radway Meadows and together with Radway Meadows constitute a large block of permanent neutral grassland.

3 SUN RISING NATURAL BURIAL GROUND & NATURE RESERVE

Beginning in 2006 as an open field of ryegrass, Sun Rising is being developed as a patchwork of habitats, each one of benefit to a range of species. There are new areas of native deciduous trees and the species-rich hedgerows are being preserved, extended and enriched. Meadows of wildflowers and native grasses, areas of tussock grassland, mown verges, grassy paths and rides are being created. There is a pond and wetland area.