

**KEY**

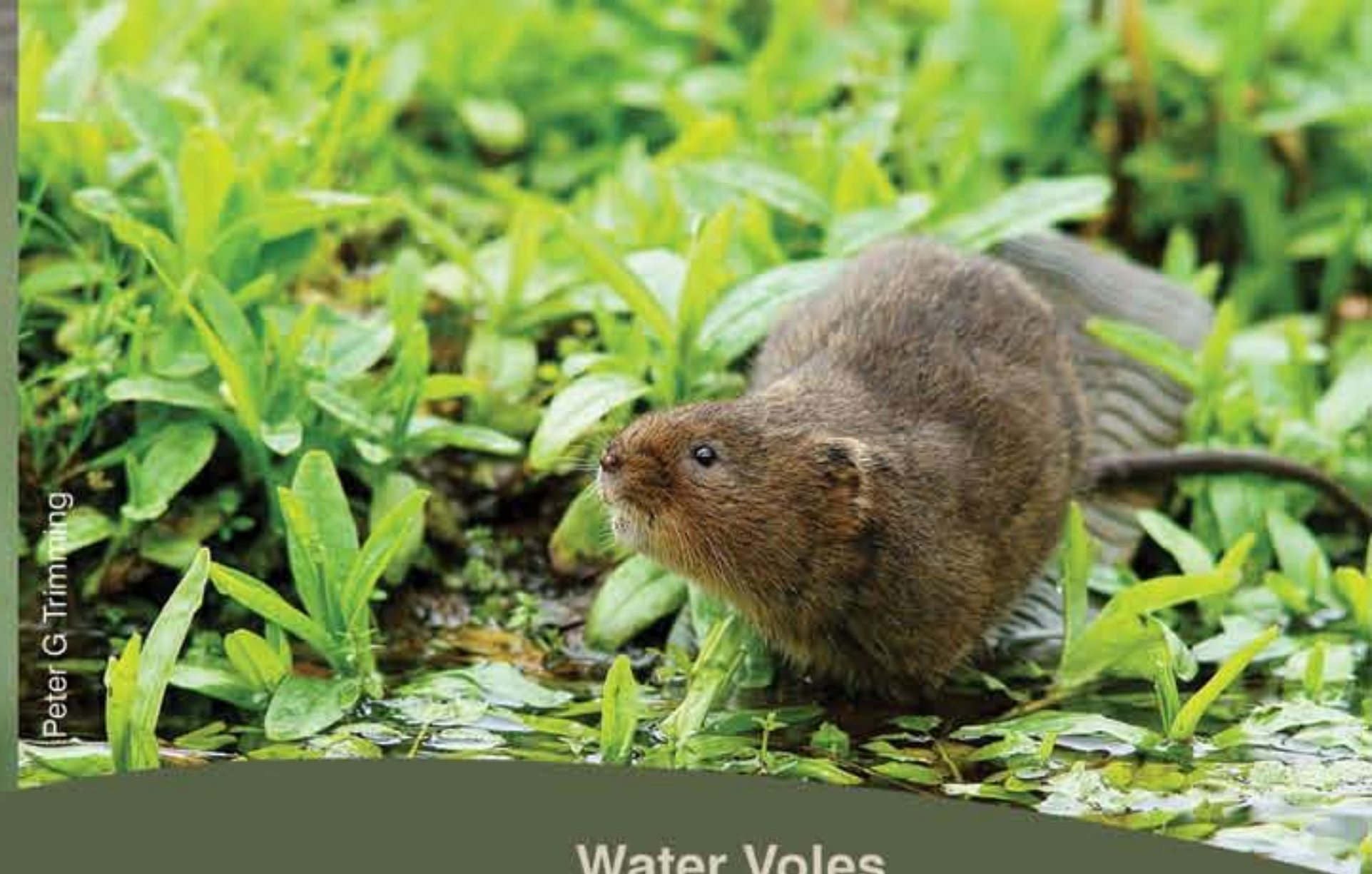
- 1 Langton Walk
- 2 Langton Meadow
- 3 Woodland Trail
- 4 Willow Tit Woods
- 5 Maple Wood and Berry Walk
- 6 Vole Bridge
- 7 Viridor Pools
- 8 Viridor Walk
- 9 Kingfisher Bridge
- 10 Station Cut
- 11 Skipper Meadow
- 12 Elm Walk
- 13 Wild Flower Walk
- 14 Maconie Meadow
- 15 Newt Ponds
- 16 Sammy's Flood
- 17 Wet Woodlands
- 18 Picnic Area
- 19 Car Park



Karen Roe

**Kingfishers**

A beautiful and very distinctive bird that can often be seen flying around the 'Station Cut' (10) and Kingfisher Bridge.' (9) If you see a bright blue flash as a bird speeds past you it was probably the kingfisher.



Peter G. Trimming

**Water Voles**

The water vole is a protected species that has made its home at Low Hall LNR and can sometimes be seen from 'Vole Bridge.' (6)



**Platt Bridge**



**White-letter Hairstreak**

Caterpillars of the White-letter Hairstreak feed on leaves of the elm tree. When elms suffered a huge decline in the 1970s white-letter hairstreak numbers dropped dramatically. A small population of this butterfly is present at Low Hall LNR centred on the elm trees. You may see this butterfly if you venture down 'Elm Walk (12) in late June and throughout July. Look out for the white 'W' marking on its wings.



Nick Ford

**Willow Tit**

This 'red' listed bird has made its home at Low Hall LNR. Over the last few years these birds have bred on the reserve and work has been carried out to improve the habitat for them.



Christophe Quinten

**Banded Demoiselle**

Smaller than a dragonfly, the banded demoiselle can often be seen from the 'Vole Bridge' (6) between June and August. The male is an iridescent blue, while the female is green in colour. The male has what looks like a dark inky fingerprint on its wings.



Diana



## SUCCESSFUL PROJECTS

Since gaining LNR status in 2009, the Friends of Low Hall LNR have received grants from 'Awards for All' for the woodland trail and signage on the car park. The path improvements, kissing gates, car park fencing and new pond habitat, have been funded by 'Viridor Credits'. The 'Million Pond Project' has provided more habitat for amphibians.

With the help of Lancashire Wildlife Trust and Wigan Leisure & Culture Trust we have removed many White Poplar trees (a non native tree). Many native trees and shrubs have been planted within the woodland glades that were created. These trees have been given by the Woodland Trust and funded by the SITA 'Willow Tit Conservation Project.'

The wood from the felled trees has been used to improve the habitat for woodland invertebrates and build hibernaculum for newts.

## LOW HALL LNR - HISTORY

The centre of the reserve suffered from coal mining subsidence around 1880. The subsidence was flooded and is often known as Sammy's Flood. The flash is fed through a meandering river called Borsdane Brook, which enters the site from the east edge.

Within the site are relics of Wigan's past, including the old site of the 'Hindley South' railway station and a disused railway line that was used to transport coal from local mines.

The site became a Grade 'A' SBI (Site of Botanical Interest) in 2004. In 2009, the site was granted Local Nature Reserve Status. LNR status protects the site for its local nature interest and ensures that local people can enjoy this valuable countryside resource.

## THE FRIENDS OF LOW HALL LNR

In December 2007 a group of locals got together and formed the Friends of Low Hall group. In the last three years they've gone from strength to strength and earned Local Nature Reserve Status for Low Hall. During the time of the Friends Group involvement it has been transformed, and you can now walk and observe the wildlife with ease. A new woodland trail path was laid in 2009 with a grant from the National Lottery Fund 'Awards for All.'

In 2010-2011 many of the paths have been improved. New gates, paths and ponds have been put in, all with funding from Viridor Credits Environmental Company. There are now many more people using and enjoying this green oasis.

In 2010 the Friends of Low Hall LNR Group were awarded the Best Environmental/Biodiversity Project. The award recognised the group's involvement in transforming the once rubbish strewn site into a haven for wildlife. All of this has been achieved with the help of the Friends of Low Hall LNR volunteers, in partnership with Wigan Leisure & Culture Trust and Lancashire Wildlife Trust.

## LOW HALL LNR



## FUTURE PROJECTS

In 2011 we hope to have a leaflet printed which will show the history of Low Hall and the surrounding areas, from 1330 to the present day.

The Friends Group have just received confirmation of funding from the National Lottery 'Fairshare For All' fund, to add a picnic trail. This will improve access to the front edge of 'Sammy's Flood' to enable site users to access the picnic area.

## CONTACT DETAILS

For more information about Low Hall LNR you can contact us in one of the following ways:

website - [www.friendsoflowhall.co.uk](http://www.friendsoflowhall.co.uk)  
 email - [lowhall@gmail.com](mailto:lowhall@gmail.com)  
 telephone - 07582 932 728

## HOW TO GET HERE

Low Hall LNR is off the A58 between Hindley and Platt Bridge. There is a free car park and bus stops close to the A58 entrance.

