



**THE FRIENDS OF
CHARWOOD
FOREST**



Guided Walk of Cossington Meadows
Wednesday 22nd June 2011
10.00 a.m. to 12.00 a.m.

Cossington Meadows is one of Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust's newest reserves and at 80 hectares is the largest of the Trust's five nature reserves in the Soar Valley. The area was quarried for gravel in the 1980's and 90's, the pits then being filled in but with several deep holes left filling with water to form lakes. The diversity of the area is helped by the adjoining River Soar which occasionally floods leaving shallow pools of water to form in the reserve. These have been added to by new pools and 'scrapes' being created to further increase the 'wetland' content.

Featured breeding wildfowl on the reserve are gadwall, tufted duck and great crested grebe. Grey herons are always present and around the shallow water waders such as green sandpiper, greenshank, oystercatcher, redshank, lapwing and little ringed plover can be found.

Our host for the walk was Chris Hill who has been with LRWT since 2002 as a Conservation Officer. He is responsible for four of the Trusts meadows on the River Soar and is also involved with the Rutland Reserves .Chris was assisted by Mike Jeeves.