

What's around in summer...?

Summer is an excellent time to visit the park as everything is busy. The conservation lake is full of breeding **ducks, swans, and herons**. **Kingfishers** can be seen hunting for fish and the reeds and grasses are bursting with **buntings** and **warblers**.



Kingfisher



Great crested grebe with chicks



Sedge warbler

Butterflies, dragonflies and other insects emerge in springtime.

The migrant **clouded yellow butterfly** has been recorded on this site, it is quite rare in this part of the country.

Purple loostrife



The park is covered with colourful wildflowers and plants throughout warmer months, from



Birdsfoot trefoil

field poppies and **birdsfoot trefoil** to **purple loostrife** and **orange balsam**.

The new bat house will hopefully encourage more bats to the area. **Pipistrelle** and **brown long-eared bats** have already been recorded on site, you can usually see them near the river hunting for insects in the early evening



Clouded yellow

Spring and summer are also the busiest times of year for the Rangers, we actively manage the site to benefit wildlife



pipistrelle bat

and our visitors and much of our time is spent cutting grass and clearing scrub.

It's also a busy time for **visitors!** The warm weather brings out picnic-ers, fishers, dog walkers and those who simply enjoy being outdoors in the fresh air.

Barford Road Pocket Park is situated just off the A1 turning for St Neots: follow the A428, turning left at the first roundabout by Tesco's. At the third roundabout turn left again, this takes you into *St. Neots Community College (Ernulf School)/Leisure Centre car park*. To get to the park walk alongside the Astroturf pitches, past the new housing and cross over the second bridge into the park via the wooden kissing gate.

There is also access to the park from: the Ouse Valley Way at Eaton Socon locks, Eynesbury Tesco and the housing development at Eynesbury Manor.

Barford Road Pocket Park:

- 12miles from Bedford
- 14miles from Huntingdon
- 19miles from Cambridge
- 42miles from Northampton



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The park is run by Rangers from Huntingdonshire District Council's Countryside Services. For more information please contact Paxton Pits Nature Reserve on: **01480 406795** or email: paxtonpits@btconnect.com Website: www.huntsdc.gov.uk

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Barford Road Pocket Park



Welcome to Barford Road Pocket Park

45 acres of grassland, wetland, waterways and wildflower meadows, just off the Ouse Valley Way. There is an ever-changing array of wildlife for you to see, what ever the season - we hope you enjoy your visit.

Barford Road Pocket Park was created in 2001 alongside the Eynesbury Manor housing development. Some areas of the park, like this lake, are specifically protected and managed to conserve and benefit the **wildlife** on site.



The park offers some excellent spots for **fishing**. Coaching sessions for budding young fishermen and fisherwomen are run throughout the summer.



There are regular **guided walks** with the Ranger throughout the year to see how the park is progressing. It's also a very popular place for **dog walking**.



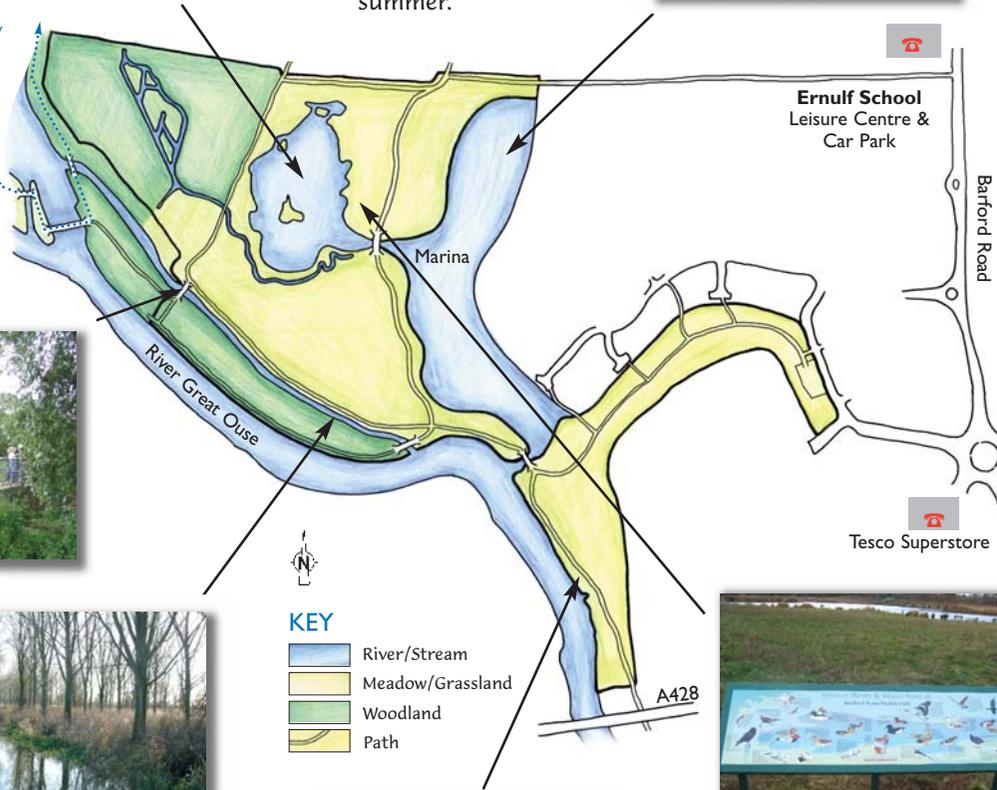
This **willow plantation** is one of only a few in the region where the willows are grown to make cricket bats.



Various **youth projects** have taken place at the park, such as the conversion of this derelict pump-house into a bat hibernacula. Other projects include a graffiti mural on an old brick bridge and pond dipping with school groups.



Ouse Valley Way approx 7km to Little Paxton
Ouse Valley Way approx 400 metres to Eaton Socon



Take a look at the **waterfowl identification panel** and see how many of our feathered visitors you can spot!

What's around in winter...?

The park is still full of life and worth a visit in the colder months.

Wintering water fowl such as **shovelers, redshank** and **teal** can be seen on the conservation lake.

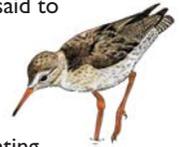


We also have a healthy **snipe** population though they can be



Snipe

quite hard to spot! So too are **water rails**, which are known to visit the park, listen out for their call which is said to sound like a squealing pig!



Redshank

Other birds on site include:

sparrowhawks and **kestrels** seen hunting over the park, a flock of **goldfinches** returning annually to feed on teasel heads during the winter and recently stonechats have been recorded.



Water rail

There are not just birds around in winter, you might see **muntjac deer** early in the morning or at dusk and there may even be **otters** using the park as they travel up and down the river.



Muntjac deer

otter

Not much grows in the winter but you can still see **watercress** emerging in the weir.

