



# Countryside Services

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



Take a look out of the woven bird hide and see how many of our feathered visitors you can spot! Use the waterfowl interpretation panel to help you identify them.



There are occasional guided walks with the Ranger. It's also a very popular place for dog walking.



Various youth projects have taken place including the conversion of a derelict pump-house into a bat hibernaculum. Other projects include a graffiti mural on an old brick bridge and pond dipping with school groups.



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



Barford Road Pocket Park is situated just off the A1. Follow the A428 for St Neots, turning left at the first roundabout by Tescos. At the third roundabout turn left again into the Ernulf Academy & Leisure Centre car park. To get to the park walk alongside the Astro turf pitches, past the houses. Cross the second bridge into the park via the wooden kissing gate.

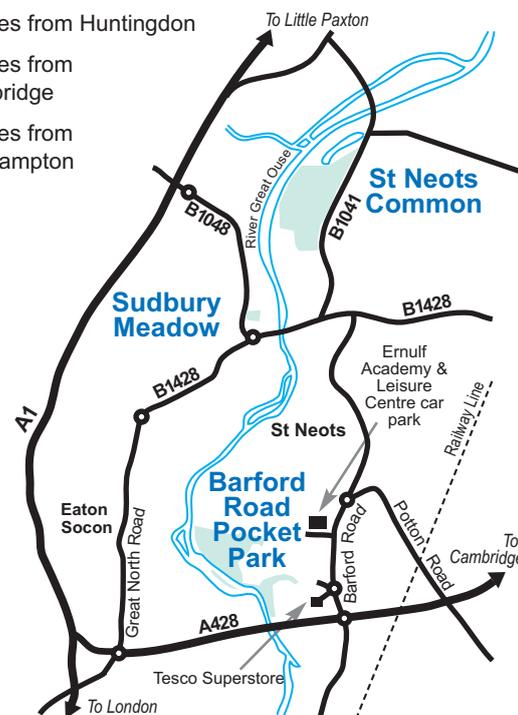
### Barford Road Pocket Park:

12miles from Bedford

14miles from Huntingdon

19miles from Cambridge

42miles from Northampton



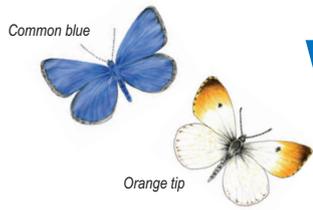
Based upon Ordnance Survey Mapping. © Crown Copyright Reserved.

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



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# Welcome to Barford Road Pocket Park

18 hectares 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, whatever the season – we hope that you enjoy your visit.



## What's around in summer...?

Summer is an excellent time to visit the park. 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.

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.

Pipistrelle and brown long-eared bats can be seen hunting for insects in the evening.



Ouse Valley Way footpath approx. 400 metres to Eaton Socon



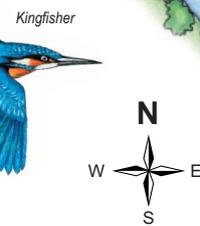
Flowering rush



Kestrel



6 spot burnet moth



Orange balsam

Colourful wildflowers and plants including field poppies, birdsfoot trefoil, purple loosestrife and orange balsam are found throughout the warmer months.

As you walk or cycle you may notice the hibernacula which have been created to support a colony of common lizards. These piles of logs covered in turf are dry, undisturbed areas for these and other reptiles to hibernate in. In the spring the lizards emerge from the hibernacula as the sun warms them up.



Common lizard

KEY	
	Unsurfaced paths
	Surfaced paths
	River/Water
	Meadow/Grassland
	Woodland/Hedgerow
	Reedbed
	No access (wildlife area)
	Interpretation panel
	Ouse Valley Way

0m 300m



Great crested grebe with chicks



Emperor dragonfly



Muntjac deer

## What's around in winter...?

The park is still full of life and worth a visit in the colder months. Wintering waterfowl such as shovelers, redshank and teal can be seen on the conservation lake.

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



Snipe

Other birds include sparrowhawks and kestrels seen hunting over the park, a flock of goldfinches returning annually to feed on teasel heads and stonechats have even been recorded.

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.



Teasel

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



Otter

## PLEASE REMEMBER...

- ❖ keep your dogs under control and clear up after them
- ❖ take all litter home
- ❖ in an emergency please call 999 giving clear information about access to the park

