

# Buxford Meadow and Singleton Lake

## Introduction

### *Buxford meadow*

Buxford Meadow is adjacent to the Great Stour; the millstream of Buxford Mill also flows through it. The site consists of a wet meadow and wet woodland. In the middle of the meadow is a pond whose margins consist predominantly of reedmace. The pond supports a diverse array of wildlife including common frogs, toads and smooth newts. Twelve species of dragonfly have been recorded at the site (25% of all UK species) and 54 moth species including the nationally notable Webbs Wainscot, whose caterpillars develop in reedmace. The site is also ideal for small mammals - field vole and pygmy shrew have been recorded in the grassland, and woodmouse and bank vole in the woodland. Several species of bat inhabit the area including two types of pipistrelle, daubentons and serotine. The wet woodland incorporates ash, alder, english oak and grey willow. The wet glades support large areas of water mint. The Stour Valley Walk passes through the wood leading to Great Chart and beyond.

The adjacent Buxford Mill is a historical feature of the site. Although the mill is a private residence the mill stream can be viewed from the bridge along Buxford Lane.

### *Singleton Lake*

Singleton Lake is a man-made water body with areas of willow and alder around its perimeter, and small areas of reedbed. The lake environs encompass a good range of habitats, including rough and wet grassland, blocks of scrub and mature trees (particularly willow and alder) and some reedbeds. The lake itself has good marginal vegetation and is overall a high quality habitat.

The habitats support a rich variety of flora and fauna, including a good resident and winter visiting bird population including species not found in other parts of the Ashford Green Corridor such as great crested grebe and reed warbler. At night Daubentons bats can be seen flying over the water.

Singleton Lake has parking, picnic areas and good links to the rest of the Green Corridor and wider countryside in the Great Chart area.

There are two sculptures by Anthony Gormley (creator of the Angel of the North).

## How to get there

Buxford Meadow and Singleton Lake can both be accessed from Bucksford Lane, which is off Tithe Barn Lane in Singleton. There is a car park off Bucksford Lane.

The sites can also be reached from Watercress Fields/Victoria Park by following the Stour Valley Walk, crossing Brookfield Road.

## Facilities

Car park.

## Locations for activities

See site map.

It Makes Sense:

These activities can be conducted anywhere but will work better in more varied parts of the sites.

Habitat Explorers:

Habitats encompassed by these sites are: river, pond, lake, meadow, woodland.

Marvellous minibeasts:

Sheets 1,2 and 3 can all be completed in Buxford Meadow, using the meadow, woodland and pond habitats at this site.

Who's Eating Who?:

These activities can be conducted across the sites as a whole, but concentrating on areas with good wildlife habitat.

**Down by the River:**

The main River Stour is reasonably accessible where it flows north of Singleton Lake, but you may be better off using the millstream through Buxford Meadow.

**Health and Safety**

Please take care in the car park and when crossing Bucksford Lane.

Please note that the wet woodland in Buxford Meadow is particularly prone to flooding.

Please read carefully the general health and safety information provided elsewhere in this pack.

**Site Maps**

The LNR boundary is shown in red. Please note these maps are not to the same scale.

