

# Queen Mother's Park

## Introduction

A long, narrow park, bounded to the west by the Great Stour. The site has a 'wilder' less ornamental aspect to it than most town parks and therefore is a good resource for environmental education. The site contains a varied mosaic of vegetation, including good wildlife habitats for an urban context, including blocks of mature native trees, broad banks of riverside vegetation and recently created meadows.

The site may well encompass fauna and flora beyond typical riverine and common park species (see 'Introduction to the Green Corridor') - it probably has a varied bird fauna. The park as a whole is a good resource as a general wildlife.

It is thought that the land here was used for small-holdings in the post-war period. A line of poplars may be a relic shelter-belt from fruit or hop production. The presence of sheepfolds in this area on the 1876 OS map suggest it was under pasture at that time. A memorial plaque on a bench near the southern entrance refers to 'Martyr's Field', which is thought to have been in this vicinity - this was the place where a number of townspeople were executed for their religious beliefs in the 16th century. A second plaque near the ADM building lists their names.

## How to get there

The southern entrance is on Mace Lane. The site can also be accessed from the north via Heathfield Road. From the Civic Centre and Stour Centre, follow the main cycle/footpath and cross Mace Lane.

## Facilities

There are no facilities for visiting groups at this site.

## 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 this site are: river, meadow, wooded areas.

Marvellous minibeasts:

Use the meadow for sheet 1, and the wooded areas for sheet 2. There is no pond at the site, and access to the river is restricted by the steep banks, so sheet 3 may not be possible.

Who's Eating Who?:

These activities can be conducted across the sites as a whole, but concentrating on areas with good wildlife habitat (short mown grass will not yield many species).

Down by the River:

The River Stour is not very accessible, due to steep banks. Some parts of this activity could be conducted from the bridge marked on the map.

## Health and Safety

The river has steep banks and may be difficult to access safely.

The southern end of the site is close to the busy ring road.

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

## Site Map

The LNR boundary is shown in red

