



Priory Country Park

Contact Information

The visitor centre is open:

9.00am-4.30pm Monday-Friday
(inc. bank holidays).

11.00am-4.30pm Saturday and Sunday

Staff are on hand for assistance and in case of emergencies please refer to the numbers provided in the visitor centre window.

Thank you for visiting Priory Country Park, we hope you have found your experience enjoyable.

Please sign our visitor's book and pick up a leaflet for the other trails we offer too.

Please place all rubbish in the bins provided and pick up after you. Thank you

Park Information and Friends Group

Conservation Officer: 01234 227407
Park Ranger: 01234 211182

School Visits and Adult Education

The Wildlife Trust: 01234 364213

Priory Water Sport Association

Dinghy Courses: 01234 364617
Windsurfing Courses: 01234 407487
Club Membership: 01234 708010

Canoe Slalom

Events: 01234 352883

Priory Marina Beefeater Restaurant

Table Bookings: 01234 352883

Priory Marina (British Waterways)

Boats and Moorings: 01234 351931

Priory Marina Cycling

Cycle Hire: 01234 340090



BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

Lakeside Trail wildlife



Priory Country Park – Lakeside Trail Wildlife

1. Bird Life to look out for on the lake from the main path includes: Herons, Mallard ducks, Canada geese and Mute Swans
2. You may see Willow fencing in the water, this is bank revetment work. It is done to try and prevent the bank and the path from eroding away into the lake.
3. Along either side of the main path you will see Willow trees growing. These trees are managed by rotational coppicing. Each year a section is cut down. The new growth encourages insects and nesting birds.
4. House martins and Swallows fly up and down the main path feeding on insects.
5. Anglers often fish for Bream and Carp along this stretch of the lake.
6. From the bird hide you may see Great Crested Grebe in winter plumage and groups of Pochard, Tufted and other migratory ducks. We regularly feed the migratory ducks with grain, to encourage them to over-winter in the park. From the bird hide you will get a great view of the many birds that use the lake throughout the year.
7. Frogs and toads use the area in and around the leaf 'pond' bridge for spawning with Moorhen and Coot sometimes nesting here too.
8. Also watch out for the aerial acrobatics of Dragonflies as they fly up and down, feeding on insects along this stretch of grass during the summer.

9. If you look out over the lake you may spot a Cormorant. These are coastal birds, which have since moved inland to take advantage of the fish stocks in lakes and rivers. They are unpopular with anglers because of the large volume of fish they eat.

10. Notice on the left one of the



remaining sections of wall, which surrounded a 16th Century Augustinian Priory. It is this link to the history of the area, which helped give the park its name.. Behind the hedge on the right is the sailing club.

