

# 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

### Fingers Lake Trail wildlife



# Priory Country Park – Fingers Lake Trail Wildlife

**1.** Bird Life to look out for on the lake from the main path includes: Cormorants, Mallard ducks, Canada Geese and Mute Swans.

**2.** In spring newts often use this area to lay their eggs. They are laid on the leaves of plants growing in the waters edge. Newts spend the rest of the year on land and often hibernate in long grass and under logs.

**3.** Look out along the hedgerow for male Orange Tip butterflies, they are fairly distinctive as their name suggests.

**4.** Look out for damselflies with dark bands on their wings, these are called banded demoiselles. Only the males have these markings on their wings. The females are an iridescent green colour.

**5.** Occasionally Manteca deer are spotted in this area; the Duke of Bedford introduced them into the UK in about 1900. They have since escaped and spread.

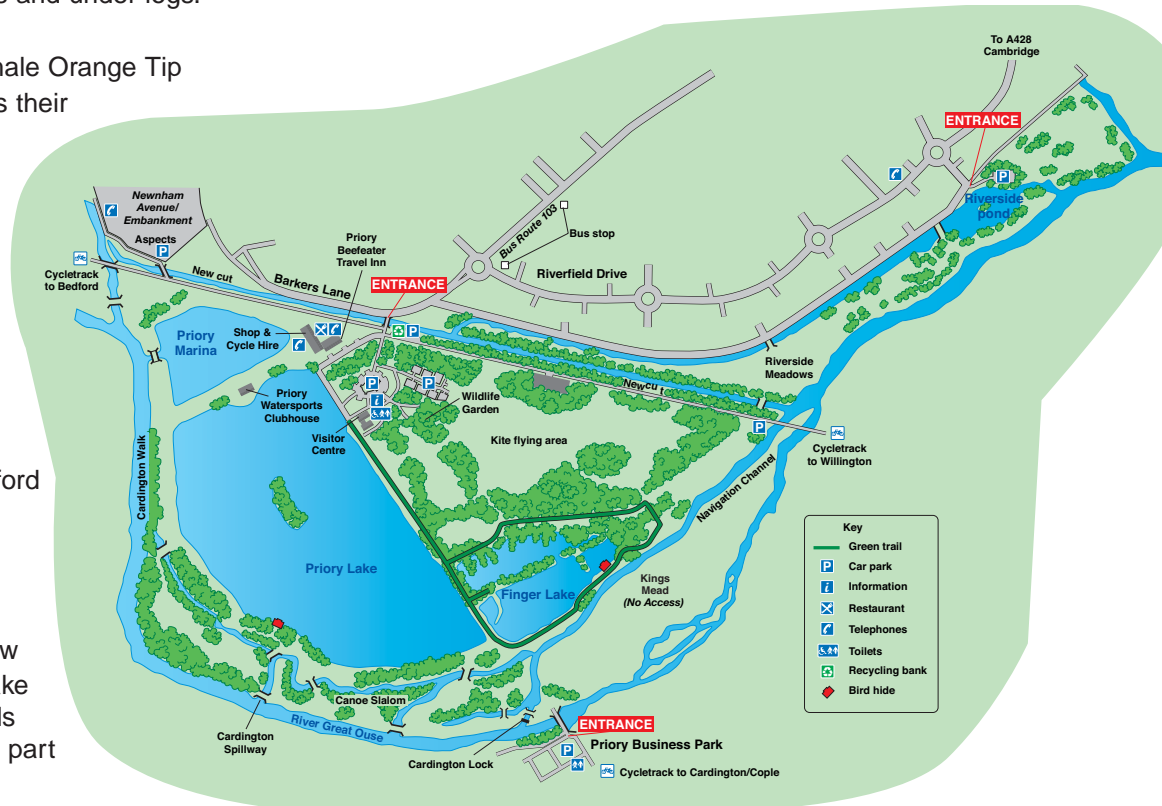
**6.** The Kramer hide offers a great view of the birdlike found in the Fingers Lake area. Many birds nest in the reed beds and occasionally we get Otters in this part of the park too.

**7.** This are of the Fingers Lake is popular with fisherman, particularly those who are after Pike and Carp.

**8.** The crescent is an area of redeemed, with willow coppice on either side of the path; this habitat offers

valuable nesting sites for birds including Moorhen and Coot.

**9.** 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.



**10.** 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.

