

KEY:

- Fencing
- Path
- Boardwalk
- Bridge
- Beaches
- Gate
- Paddle

WETLAND

Created in 2015 the wetland is full of dragonflies, newts, water fleas, snails and toads! As well as making a home for pondlife the wetland is a good example of a sustainable urban drainage system (SuDS). It is fed by water from the road, but the plants naturally remove pollutants from this runoff, cleaning it up before it flows into the river.



Broad-bodied chaser

BULLHEADS

This small, strangely shaped fish (also known as the 'miller's thumb') can be found by turning over large stones.



BOARDWALK

The perfect spot to take a short stroll, enjoy beautiful views of the Kennet and perhaps be lucky enough to see a water vole! Water voles feed on the sedge, watermint and watercress, each day they eat around 80% of their bodyweight in plants.



Water vole

BIRD FEEDERS



Robin

DAUBENTON'S BATS at Poulton Footbridge. These bats can be seen hunting for insects such as moths and caddisflies above the river surface. The beach here is a great point to watch them from.



BEACH

A beautiful stretch of river that in the warmer months is an ideal spot to enjoy being in or by.



SCRUB AREA

Walk the sinuous mown pathway to enjoy this wild space. In summer listen out for warblers and cuckoo. Small mammals thrive here and occasionally can be spotted, this in turn means early mornings and evenings can lead to rewarding views of barn owl hunting. 20 mammal species have been recorded here.



Otter



Cuckoo

BEACHES

A gravel beach area at both ends of the reserve gives visitors easy access to enjoy the river.



ACCESS FROM ST MARTIN'S

STONEBRIDGE LANE

ACCESS FROM LONDON ROAD

ENTRANCE TO STONEBRIDGE MEADOW

INCREASING BIODIVERSITY

In 2022 we began implementing an adapted mowing regime of this space. Less mowing allows native wild plants to flower and seed, providing pollen and nectar for pollinating insects; and cover for many more species.



HEDGING

In 2017 we completed our community planting a hedge for wildlife. Over 3,000 native trees are growing around the conservation grazing area, all planted by volunteers from the community.

The hedge is used by insects, birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians, as well as helping slow the flow of water in times of sudden downpours.

CONSERVATION GRAZING AREA

In the summer a small number of cattle can be seen helping us manage this area to promote a more diverse range of wildflowers and grasses. Two 'people' gates allow access to this space all year.



Hereford



White Satin Moth



Action for the River Kennet

Seasons

Spring/Summer

A great time for pond and river dipping! With a net, bucket and tray you can discover a wealth of freshwater wildlife living in our wetland and the river. This can be done informally (please put all creatures back unharmed when you've finished) or come along to one of our expert led events to find out lots about freshwater life.

Butterflies, moths and bumblebees are on the wing because of the range of native flowers in bloom. See if you can spot some of the 18 species of butterfly carrying out their life cycle here. Did you know we run public Moth Nights? So far we've recorded more than 300 species! Our vision is to have a meadow that supports a wide variety of native wild bees and other pollinators because we have created excellent habitat.

Autumn/Winter

Pause by the bird feeders to watch some of the sites 80 bird species feeding. Species include nuthatch, bullfinch, great and lesser spotted woodpecker. Look out for some of the 95 species of fungi recorded here. The standing and fallen dead trees at the far end of the meadow are good locations.

On cold winter days keep an eye out for water rail, a secretive bird, often seen probing with their long orange bill for food in the river margins.



Turkey Tail Fungi



Water Rail



Explore and enjoy!

Walkers, bird watchers and families, whether local or visiting, there is plenty to enjoy all year round at Stonebridge.

The River Kennet, a beautiful and internationally important chalk stream meanders through the heart of the reserve, with a 15 acre water meadow to explore to the south and a riverside walk along a boardwalk to the north.

The River Kennet and adjoining habitats support iconic species including otter, kingfisher, water vole and brown trout. It is also home to less well known but equally fascinating creatures such as the wealth of freshwater insects that live in the clean gravel

riverbed and amongst the aquatic plants.



Common Blue Butterfly



Stream Water-crowfoot

ARK have worked to enhance the site both on land and in the river through river restoration and a range of habitat creation. We have created greater access for visitors to enjoy this multi-awarding winning designated wildlife site, whilst preserving areas to allow native wildlife to thrive. Many of the projects have and continue to involve our volunteers and the wider community.

A range of free events and volunteering opportunities run throughout the year. Visit our website and Facebook page to see what's coming up.

Photography: Trevor Pinchen, David Kjaer and Anna Forbes



Action for the River Kennet
The Rivers Trust for the Kennet catchment

Welcome to
Stonebridge
Wild River Reserve



How you can help...
Make a donation using the QR code, or become a volunteer and member
www.riverkennet.org
riverkennet
ARKennet



We welcome responsible dog owners, please keep dogs under control at all times and please bag it and bin it. Picnickers welcome, create memories not a mess and put any litter in our bins.

Find us...
Stonebridge Wild River Reserve is a ten minute walk east from Marlborough High Street. Stonebridge Meadow was jointly purchased in 2011 by Action for the River Kennet and Marlborough Town Council and the land north of the river has been leased by ARK since 2010. It is open 365 days a year and is free to visit.
Using What3Words: camcorder.organic.bulk