

BELSTEAD BROOK PARK

Local countryside
for local people



WHAT IS BELSTEAD BROOK PARK?

Belstead Brook Park (BBP) was set up in 1992 as a partnership between Ipswich Borough Council, Suffolk County Council and Babergh District Council. A BBP Masterplan was adopted that agreed the layout of the Park and guided work for the first ten years or so. The Park is effectively an informal country park, extending to about 250 acres – offering opportunities for people to explore well managed countryside right on the edge of town. The Park includes areas of ancient woodland, wet woodland, ponds, meadows, reedbeds, hedges, farmed land and the Brook itself.

The Park is perfect for leisurely strolls; enjoying beautiful scenery and fresh air; walking the dog; running; cycling; watching wildlife; photography; and includes areas for formal sport, children's play and other activities.

Why is it important?

The Park is a vitally important area for wildlife and for local people to enjoy. In a relatively small area there are a vast range of habitats and rare and protected species including dormice, otters, bats, water voles, reptiles, kingfishers and bluebells.

Local

The Park is very easily reached on foot by thousands of local residents without the need to travel great distances, and provides very high quality countryside. The Park acts as a 'gateway to the wider countryside' – encouraging local people to explore further afield via public footpaths and bridleways.

Health

The Park offers space for people to get away from their busy lives and to enjoy beautiful surroundings, fresh air, exercise and tranquillity – with all the benefits to physical and mental health that can come from this.



∞ BELSTEAD B



ROOK PARK ∞

Bobbits Lane Meadows LNR – a vitally important wet meadow system supporting: one of England’s largest recorded colonies of common toad; water voles; otters; and a wide range of birds that enjoy the ponds and scrapes. A viewing tower and hide allow good opportunities to look over the ponds.



Stoke Park Wood Local Nature Reserve

Stoke Park Drive Open Space

Ashground Plantation

Anglian Water Depot

Allotments

Braky Wood (private)

Reedbeds

Ostrich Meadows

Bourne Park – a large open park with play area, paddling pool, and sports pitches, along with important wildlife areas including the reed beds (thought to be the largest area of reed bed in south Suffolk). The reed bed area is a Local Nature Reserve due to the importance of reed bed habitat for a wide range of birds and other species.

Sedge Warbler



To Wherstead

To Bourne Bridge & Wherstead Road

A14

A137

P

P

MARK BEGLEY



Wildlife

The different habitats within the Park support a very wide range of wildlife, much of which can be seen and enjoyed as you walk around. Much more can be appreciated by stopping to watch from our viewing tower and hide, or resting on a seat by the Brook to see a kingfisher flash past, for example. To understand more about the Park's wildlife, there are a range of events from guided walks and educational activities to surveys and practical sessions to allow local people to become more involved and appreciate the natural environment on our doorsteps.



How the Park is managed and how you can help:

The Greenways Project manages Belstead Brook Park on behalf of Ipswich Borough Council, Suffolk County Council and Babergh District Council. The Project works very closely with the Friends of BBP (see below), Pinewood Parish Council and local people. Much of the management work in the Park is carried out by volunteers who assist with a very wide range of tasks including mowing meadows, building bridges, cutting paths, coppicing woodland, picking litter, planting hedges and surveying wildlife.

If you would like to get involved in helping to look after the Park, please contact the Greenways Project on **01473 433995** or email greenways.project@ipswich.gov.uk

More information about our work can be found on our website: www.greenlivingcentre.org.uk/greenways

The Friends of Belstead Brook Park

The Friends group was established in 2002 to help with looking after the Park. The group's volunteers help with practical management work, events, fundraising, and act as 'eyes and ears' to report any issues back to the Greenways Project.

Membership of the group is free – members receive mailings about the Park and the Group's activities, and can help as little or as much as they like.

To become a member of the Friends group, please visit their website: www.greenlivingcentre.org.uk/fobbp or contact the Greenways Project.

Ipswich Wildlife Group (IWG)

IWG is a well established local group that seeks to promote interest in, and conservation of, wildlife and habitats in and around Ipswich. The Group has been involved in the management of Spring Wood, at the heart of BBP, for at least 20 years.

The Group's volunteers have regular work parties to coppice the woodland, producing a 'crop' of beanpoles and peasticks for local gardeners. More information about IWG can be found at: www.greenlivingcentre.org.uk/iwg