

# Bourton Park

## Kingfisher

These colourful little birds are characteristic of slow flowing lowland rivers such as the stretch of the River Great Ouse which runs through Buckingham. They fly low and fast over the water like little tornados and will suddenly dive into the water to catch small fish. They nest in burrows in soft banks and rest in the bushes and trees on the banks. They are very easy to spot – but you have to be quick!



Town Centre  
12 minutes

You are  
here

Burleigh Piece  
→ to Canal

## Bullhead



Bullhead are small fish found in clean, stony waters as in the pond and stream system in the park. The Bullhead is a small fish getting up to 10cm long and most likely to be seen around dawn and dusk. They are also known as 'Millers Thumb'.

Badgers  
Estate

A 413 Bypass

Bourton  
Road

### KEY

- Entrances
- Picnic areas
- Car park
- Dog Exercise areas
- Events Paddock
- Trim Trail items
- Suggested route for Trim Trail
- Play areas
- MUGA (Multi use games area)
- Table tennis



Buckingham Town Council

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Funded by:



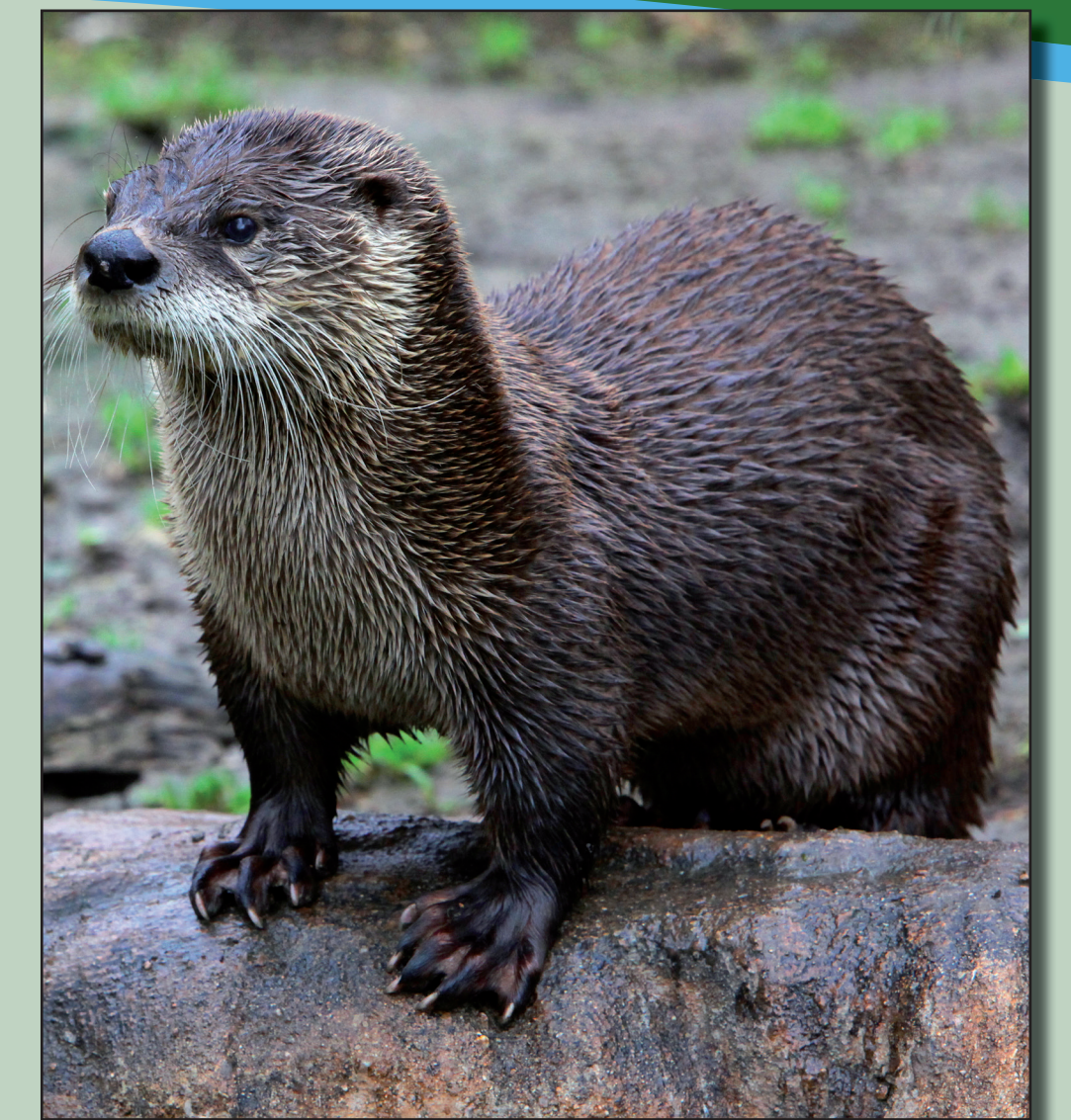
Design: Black Dog Design, Buckingham



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## Otter

The otter population crashed between 1960 and 1990 following persecution, and pesticide poisoning. However it has recovered spectacularly since then and is now found in many rivers in the UK. It is highly secretive and very hard to see but has been spotted in Bourton Park. The otter feeds on fish, water birds, amphibians (such as frogs and toads) and crustaceans, it is well adapted to river life and has webbed feet and near waterproof fur. It lives in underground burrows called holts and is legally protected.



## Crack Willow



These tall slender trees are common in Bourton Park occurring along the banks of the River Great Ouse and small tributaries. They are named due to the characteristic 'crack' sound of the brittle twigs in winter when broken and this is one of the ways they can be identified. They

are highly prized by wildlife such as bees and moths as their catkins provide an early pollen and nectar source. If you are lucky you may see a great spotted woodpecker prospecting the branches for 'drumming' holes to create nests and roosts.



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## Banded Demoiselle Damselfly

These very pretty damselflies can be found fluttering amongst the lush vegetation beside the river in Bourton Park between May and September. Look out for the metallic blue or green body (with a bronze tip in the female) the males have a characteristic dark blue or black band across the central part of the wings. They often make 'display flights' in front of the females.



## Little Egret



The little egret was a very rare visitor to the British Isles until very recently. It has colonised from northern France and first bred in the UK in 1996. Since then it has been spreading northwards and is now found all year round but particularly in Autumn,

feeding on small fish and crustaceans from slow flowing rivers. A handsome white heron with handsome white plumes on the crest, black legs and yellow feet, it is very easily spotted.

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