

Witney Lake & Country Park (LNR) (LWS)



Terns on raft
Photo: Carl Whitehead

NATURAL ENGLAND

Natural England have helped fund much of the development of Witney Lake & Country Park (LNR) (LWS), such as support for habitat improvement.



DISCOVER THE LOWER WINDRUSH VALLEY

Witney Lake is an important site in the Lower Windrush Valley. Although it is one of many lakes in the valley left by mineral extraction, it is the only one under public ownership and managed as a country park.

Lying to the south east of Witney, the Lower Windrush Valley is an area that has been transformed by mineral extraction over the last 50 years.



WELCOME

Welcome to Witney Lake & Country Park Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and Local Wildlife Site (LWS), a place for everyone to relax and enjoy the natural world, right on the doorstep of the historic market town of Witney.

This 27 hectare country park is managed by Witney Town Council for the benefit of both local people and the wealth of wildlife that the lake and meadows attract. The lake was bought in 1988 and was known as Pit 37 or Barrow Pit.

THE LAKE

The lake is a former gravel pit that naturally filled with water following restoration in the 1980's. Since then it has become an important site for many different birds, water plants and insects.

Throughout the year you will find wetland birds such as Coot, Moorhen and the elegant Great Crested Grebe. Look out for Pochard, Teal and Goldeneye visiting to feed in the winter, whilst in spring Common Tern and Cetti's Warbler arrive to nest in the park.

Ponds, ditches, and a wildflower meadow have been created around the lake, and the southern end is managed as a nature reserve that offers a quieter corner for wildlife watching.

THE WINDRUSH PATH

The Windrush Path is a route developed by the Lower Windrush Valley Project that ultimately aims to provide a path from Witney, through the valley to link with the Thames Path National Trail at Newbridge. You can take the footpath south of the park to enjoy the 1.9 mile section along the River Windrush to Hardwick. For further information about the route contact the Lower Windrush Valley Project.



Red Kite
Photo: Justin Hoffmann

THE RIVER

The 35 mile River Windrush flows from Temple Guiting in the Cotswolds to meet the River Thames at Newbridge. You may be surprised to see it flowing in two channels through the park having divided just upstream in Witney. Here you might spot a Kingfisher or see one of many different Dragonflies that hunt along the river and over the lake in summer.



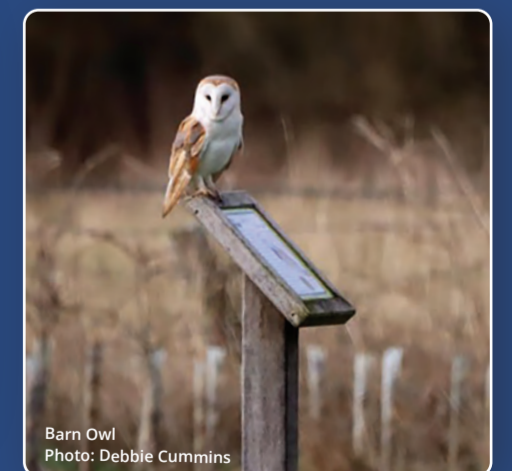
Kingfisher
Photo: Justin Hoffmann

THE MEADOWS

The meadows are traditionally managed, to encourage a range of wildlife. In winter, the river often floods this area, with the scrapes holding water late into spring. Look out for wading birds such as Snipe and Egrets, which come to feed.



Water Vole
Photo: Justin Hoffmann



Barn Owl
Photo: Debbie Cummins



For further information about the Witney Lake & Country Park (LNR) (LWS) or to report any problems, contact: Witney Town Council, Town Hall, Market Square, Witney, Oxon. OX28 6AG.
Tel: 01993 704379
Email: info@witney-tc.gov.uk

For more information, such as leaflets, surveys, and volunteering opportunities, please see our website: www.witney-tc.gov.uk/parks-open-spaces/witney-lake-and-country-park-biodiversity-page/

