

The Natural Environment Of Bury Field Common

Bury Field's 180 acres (73 hectares) overlook the floodplain of the River Great Ouse and give a great feeling of space that can be explored by all.

The character of the common changes throughout the year, with the winter's big skies often being crossed by gulls, ducks, swans and skeins of geese.

Flooded depressions in the old quarry and along the course of the railway earthworks attract Snipe, a wading bird which explodes into flight if disturbed.

In summer Skylarks soar above and Swallows, Swifts and House Martins feed on insects especially over the Common's wetter areas. Here rushes, sedges and reeds grow with the white flowers of Water crowfoot and Water plantain. On the drier grassland, there are masses of yellow flowered Lady's bedstraw.

Walking across Bury Meadow, where the purple flowers of the uncommon Great burnet can be seen, leads you to the River Ouse where Heron and Little egret hunt for food. Kingfishers, Little owls and Buzzards are often seen. Otters, which have returned to the area, live along the river, but are mainly active at night. On summer evenings look for Daubenton's bat which skims the water to scoop up insects.

The Common has few trees and shrubs apart from Hawthorns along the old railway and the hilltop plantation towards its centre.

The predominantly Hawthorn and Blackthorn hedgerows also have wild roses, pollard Willows and Ash trees, sometimes with woodpecker nesting holes drilled into them.

The aim of Milton Keynes Council is to ensure through sensitive management that the biodiversity of the common thrives and is available for all to enjoy.

The management of Bury Field is through a Countryside Stewardship Scheme, its main aims are:

- Sustainable agriculture and land management
- Maintaining landscape character and quality
- Public access and enjoyment
- Wildlife conservation
- Protecting history and archaeology

Flowering Rush

Orange Tip Butterfly

Creeping Buttercup

Water Plantain

Lady's Smock

Great Burnet

Little Egret

