



Eastcote House Gardens

Wildlife Images Trail



All the wildlife shown on the plaques can be seen in and around the Eastcote House Gardens, Long Meadow and the River Pinn and its backwater.

There are 10 plaques – see if you can find them all and make a collection of wildlife rubbings. You will need paper and pencils or crayons to take the rubbings.



Begin the Wildlife Images Trail at the start of the boardwalk

opposite the Dovecote to find the Great Spotted Woodpecker

post. These birds live in the park and Long Meadow: they can be heard drumming against dead branches to proclaim their territory and attract a mate.



Now walk left around the edge of the play area to find the Grey Squirrel

post. Grey squirrels scamper

across the grass and up and

down trees gathering nuts and seeds to feed on.



Cross over to the river just below the dipping platform to find the Heron post. Sometimes herons

can be seen in the river and backwater searching for fish and frogs.



Next comes the Bat post, which

is near the bridge. Bats fly at night, using sonar to track down moths to eat. They swoop over the water where many insects gather.



Walk across the Sheila Liberty Bridge, turn right and look for the Moth post near the large Celandine Route board.



There are many moths flying at night among the trees and over the grassland. Some, such as the *Burnet moth*, fly during the daytime.

Continue along the river bank: in the horse chestnut copse on your left, look for the **Speckled Wood Butterfly** post.

These butterflies love the dappled shade of the woodland



edge, and flutter between the trees. They are very common and widespread in the meadow.

Continue upstream, just before the backwater to find the **Dragonfly** post. Dragonflies and



their smaller damselfly cousins breed in

the backwater and disperse around the meadow to hunt for smaller insects to eat.

Further upstream, you will find the **Tadpole** post. Frogs spawn in the backwater in late winter and early spring. Frogspawn soon hatches to produce tadpoles.

The few tadpoles that avoid being eaten then become frogs and leave the backwater.



In the middle of the meadow, you will find the **Oak Leaf** post. The majestic solitary oak tree nearby is



one of several veteran trees growing in the park and in Long Meadow. Oaks support all sorts of other wildlife – look out for acorns in the autumn.

From the oak tree, walk towards the woody area in front of the road to find the **Cowslip**

post, the last post on the trail. Here a few cowslips grow in the meadow grassland:



in spring their flowers are a delicate yellow colour.

We hope you enjoyed this Wildlife Images Trail. Please do not drop litter - take this leaflet home and recycle it.

*Friends of Eastcote House Gardens
March 2018*