

Welcome to River Arrow

The River Arrow Local Nature Reserve has a wonderful variety of wildlife and habitats, including ponds, river, meadow and woodland. A circular, marked trail guides you around all this fantastic reserve has to offer.



Common frog
© 2017 Friends of the River Arrow

Look out for feature points and see how much you can discover about this special place and its wildlife.

About the nature reserve

Designated as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) in 1993 with the addition of the Abbey Field in 2002, the reserve is owned by Stratford District Council and carefully managed in partnership with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust to ensure the diversity of habitats remain and are enhanced.

The reserve has interesting historical links to Ragley Mill and Alcester Abbey which date back to the middle ages. Evidence of which can be seen on-site today, including the weir which originally diverted water to the mill, via a leat. The mill is now a privately owned dwelling and is not open to the public.

Things to see

The banks of the River Arrow are edged with Willow, Alder, Oak and Hawthorn, which provide ideal perches for Kingfishers. The slopping pebble beach provides the perfect habitat for reeds and other wetland plants, as well as offering an attractive feeding area for many birds and insects such as Grey Wagtails and several regionally scarce beetles.

Look out for the locally rare Small Teasel (*Dipsacus pilosus*) which occurs in open woodland on damp soils near rivers or streams.

Small Teasel
© 2017 Friends of the River Arrow



Visiting River Arrow

Directions

Ragley Mill Lane, Alcester, Warwickshire, B49 5DU.

Opening Times

River Arrow LNR is open throughout the year.

Parking

Small parking area at Ragley Mill Lane.

Walking information

Circular waymarked trail.

Walkies with Wildlife

Dogs permitted on a lead. Please respect this nature reserve by cleaning up after your dog.

Places to visit nearby

Priory Meadow

Walk through the Abbey Field for further trails around Priory Meadow and the National Monument site (see map overleaf).

Grove Hill

A glorious mix of habitats, rich in wild-flowers. Three miles away, B49 6DU

Rough Hill Wood

Ancient woodland, teeming with wildlife. Four miles away, B80 7EN

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Warwickshire



Warwickshire

River Arrow

Local Nature Reserve (LNR)



www.warwickshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/reserves/river-arrow

Kingfisher © 2017 Andrew Haynes
Banded demoiselle © 2017 Steven Cheshire (WWT)
Wild garlic and River Arrow © 2017 Friends of the River Arrow

Things to do



Way marked trail

A circular, waymarked trail takes visitors around a one mile (1.6 km) loop, taking up to 30 minutes. For more information and to download the trail, visit www.warkswildtrails.org.uk.



Feature stops

Dotted around the reserve in areas of high ecological significance, the feature stops act as a reminder to pause, look and listen.



Brass rubbing disks

Featuring local wildlife, a series of brass rubbing disks are attached to each waymarker post. **How many can you find?** Once you have them all, think of other natural surfaces you can take rubbings from.



View points

View points along the river offer excellent wildlife sighting opportunities.



Al-fresco dining

The reserve offers a number of picnic spots so why not stay a little longer and enjoy the sights and sounds of nature. Find a nice spot and spread out a blanket but please make sure you take any litter home with you.



Become a wildlife detective

How many different birds, butterflies and plants can you find? Download an activity sheet from the Wildlife WATCH web site www.wildlifewatch.org.uk.



River Arrow Nature Reserve was designated as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) in 1993.

The reserve is owned by Stratford District Council and carefully managed for wildlife by Warwickshire Wildlife Trust with support from the local friends of group.



Key to map



Car Parking



Information

--- Footpath

--- River Arrow trail

● Waymarker

● Feature

--- Scheduled Ancient Monument

● Historic building



Speckled wood butterfly
© 2017 Friends of the River Arrow

Explore the surrounding area

The Abbey Field is owned and managed by Stratford District Council. It is possible to follow the footpath from River Arrow Nature Reserve, into the Abbey Field and onto the Ancient Monument Site. The mounds and depressions are evidence of the ancient earthworks marking the site of a Benedictine Abbey founded in 1140.

Priory Meadow is owned and managed by Alcester Town Council. The Ancient Monument site extends into the western side of the Priory Meadow, evidenced by further earthworks in this area.

The Ancient Monument site covers an extensive area which the Abbey once covered in its heyday of the 12th and 13th centuries. The meadow has a number of paths and interpretation boards providing further information on the meadows history.

Loved it, treasure it, support it!

Your support is vital to protect this wonderful place and its wildlife for future generations.

www.warwickshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/support