Contact Information

Park Address
Priory Country Park, Visitor's Centre
Barkers Lane, Bedford MK41 9DJ

Rangers
You can contact the Rangers by phone. Please leave a message and the Rangers will get back to you.
Tel: 01234 718012 (24hr answer phone)
E-mail: prioryrangers@bedford.gov.uk
Web: www.bedford.gov.uk

The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire
Tel: 01234 364213
E-mail: bedfordshire@wildlifebcn.org

Cleverdale Retreat Café
Tel: 01234 325462

Priory Water Sport Association
E-mail: info@priorysc.org.uk
Web: www.priorysc.org.uk

Canoe Slalom
Bookings: www.canoealcolm.co.uk/courses/cardington.htm

Priory Marina Beech Baxter Restaurant
Table Bookings: 01234 352853

Priory Marina (British Waterways)
Boats and Moorings: 01234 351931

Other walks
Find out more about more of Bedfordshire's walking and riding routes as well as nature reserves and country parks by visiting
www.bedg.org.uk
Let's Go! Bedfordshire's Promoted Routes & Sites

Welcome to Priory Country Park

How to find Priory Country Park

Access Information

There are disabled parking spaces in the main car park, off Barkers Lane. The Visitor Centre and toilets are accessible by wheelchair. The path around the lake is surfaced and suitable for wheelchair and prams.

When to visit

The Park is open every day of the year. The main route around the Park is accessible in all weathers although other areas can get wet and muddy. The Park is busy at weekends, especially on Sundays, but quieter during the week.

Public Transport

Stagecoach route no. 4 bus stops approx. 200m from the park at the western end of Riverfield Drive from Bedford town centre. The nearest railway station is Bedford, approx. 2 miles away.

Country Parks

Priory Country Park
Lakeside Wildlife Trail
2 km / 1.5 miles Time: 1.5 hours

Forestry Commission
Welcome to Priory Country Park

To find out more information on the Forestry Commission, please phone their information desk on 01234 718012 (24hr answer phone) or visit their website at www.forestry.gov.uk.

Further Options

The area is rich in nature and wildlife with many opportunities for exploration and discovery. The park is well signposted and there are several trails for walking and cycling. The area is also home to a variety of birds and wildlife, making it a great place for nature lovers and photographers.

For more information on the Forestry Commission, please visit their website at www.forestry.gov.uk.

Forestry Commission
Welcome to Priory Country Park
Priory Country Park

Lakeside Wildlife Trail

Approx 2 km / 1.5 miles  Time: 1.5 hours

1. Bird life to look out for on the lake from the main path includes: Herons, Mallard ducks, Canada geese and Mute Swans.

2. You may see Willow fencing in the water, this is bank revetment work. It is done to try and prevent the bank and the path from eroding away into the lake.

3. Along either side of the main path you will see Willow trees growing. These trees are managed by rotational coppicing. Each year a section is cut down. The new growth encourages insects and nesting birds.

4. House martins and Swallows fly up and down the main path feeding on insects.

5. Anglers often fish for Bream and Carp along this stretch of the lake.

6. From the bird hide you may see Great Crested Grebe in winter plumage and groups of Pochard, Tufted and other migratory ducks. We regularly feed the migratory ducks with grain, to encourage them to over-winter in the park. From the bird hide you will get a great view of the many birds that use the lake throughout the year.

7. Frogs and toads use the area in and around the Leat ‘pond’ bridge for spawning with Moorhen and Coot sometimes nesting here too.

8. Also watch out for the aerial acrobatics of Dragonflies as they fly up and down, feeding on insects along this stretch of grass during the summer.

9. If you look out over the lake you may spot a Cormorant. These are coastal birds, which have since moved inland to take advantage of the fish stocks in lakes and rivers. They are unpopular with anglers because of the large volume of fish they eat.

10. Notice on the left one of the remaining sections of wall, which contains stones from the original Augustinian Priory. It is this link to the history of the area, which helped give the park its name. Behind the hedge on the right is the sailing club.