**How to find Priory Country Park**

![Map of Priory Country Park](image)

**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.wildlifetrust.org

**Cleverdale Retreat Café**
Tel: 01234 325462

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

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

**Priory Marina Beefeater Restaurant**
Table Bookings: 01234 352883

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

**Other walks**
Find out about more of Bedfordshire's walking and riding routes as well as nature reserves and country parks by visiting www.bedfordshire-countryside.gov.uk

Let's Go! Bedfordshire's Promoted Routes & Sites

**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.

**Access Information**
There are disabled parking spaces in the main car park, off Barkers Lane. The Visitor Centre and toilets are accessible by wheelchairs. The path around the lake is surfaced and suitable for wheelchairs 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 is quieter during the week.
**Finger Lake Wildlife Trail**

Approx 1.5 km / 1 miles  Time: 1 hour

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

2. In spring newts often use this area to lay their eggs. They are laid on the leaves of plants growing in the waters edge. Newts spend the rest of the year on land and often hibernate in long grass and under logs.

3. Look out along the hedgerow for male Orange Tip butterflies, they are fairly distinctive as their name suggests.

4. Look out for damselflies with dark bands on their wings, these are called Banded Demoiselles. Only the males have these markings on their wings. The females are an iridescent green colour.

5. Occasionally Muntjac deer are spotted in this area; the Duke of Bedford introduced them into the UK in about 1900. They have since escaped and spread.

6. The Kramer hide offers a great view of the birdlife found in the Finger Lakes area. Many birds nest in the reed beds and occasionally we get Otters in this part of the park too.

7. This area of the Finger Lakes is popular with fishermen, particularly those who are after Pike and Carp.

8. The Crescent is an area of reedbed, with Willow coppice on either side of the path. This habitat offers valuable nesting sites for birds including Moorhen and Coot.

9. 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.

10. 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.