

The Local Nature Reserves (LNR's) in Cambridge are for both people and wildlife. Designated under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, these reserves help to protect some of the best wildlife habitats across the City, whilst making an important contribution to the UK's biodiversity. The reserves provide an opportunity for people to study, learn about and enjoy nature on their doorstep.

For more information about volunteering on this and other sites or any issue regarding Local Nature Reserves in Cambridge please contact:

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Or visit: [www.lnr.cambridge.gov.uk/](http://www.lnr.cambridge.gov.uk/)



Illustrations courtesy of Wildlife Trust



# Welcome to Stourbridge Common LNR

This extensive riverside floodplain forms an important part of an East Cambridge wildlife corridor, linking a range of habitats from the Cherry Hinton Chalk Pits to the River Cam which flows out into the Fens. The grassland is managed by grazing cattle throughout the summer months and their dung is home to invertebrates, which in turn become prey to bats such as the Noctule.



Snipe

The grassland is seasonally wet and several 'scrapes' have been created which provide winter foraging for birds

such as **Snipe** and in wet years allow **Smooth Newt** and **Frogs** to complete their life cycles in the Spring and summer. If you dip a jam jar into these pools you'll notice the abundance of microscopic life such as **Daphnia** and **Cyclops**, which flourish in these temporary pools.

The tussocks within the grassland provide an ideal refuge for **field voles** and other small mammals,



Water Vole



Smooth Newt

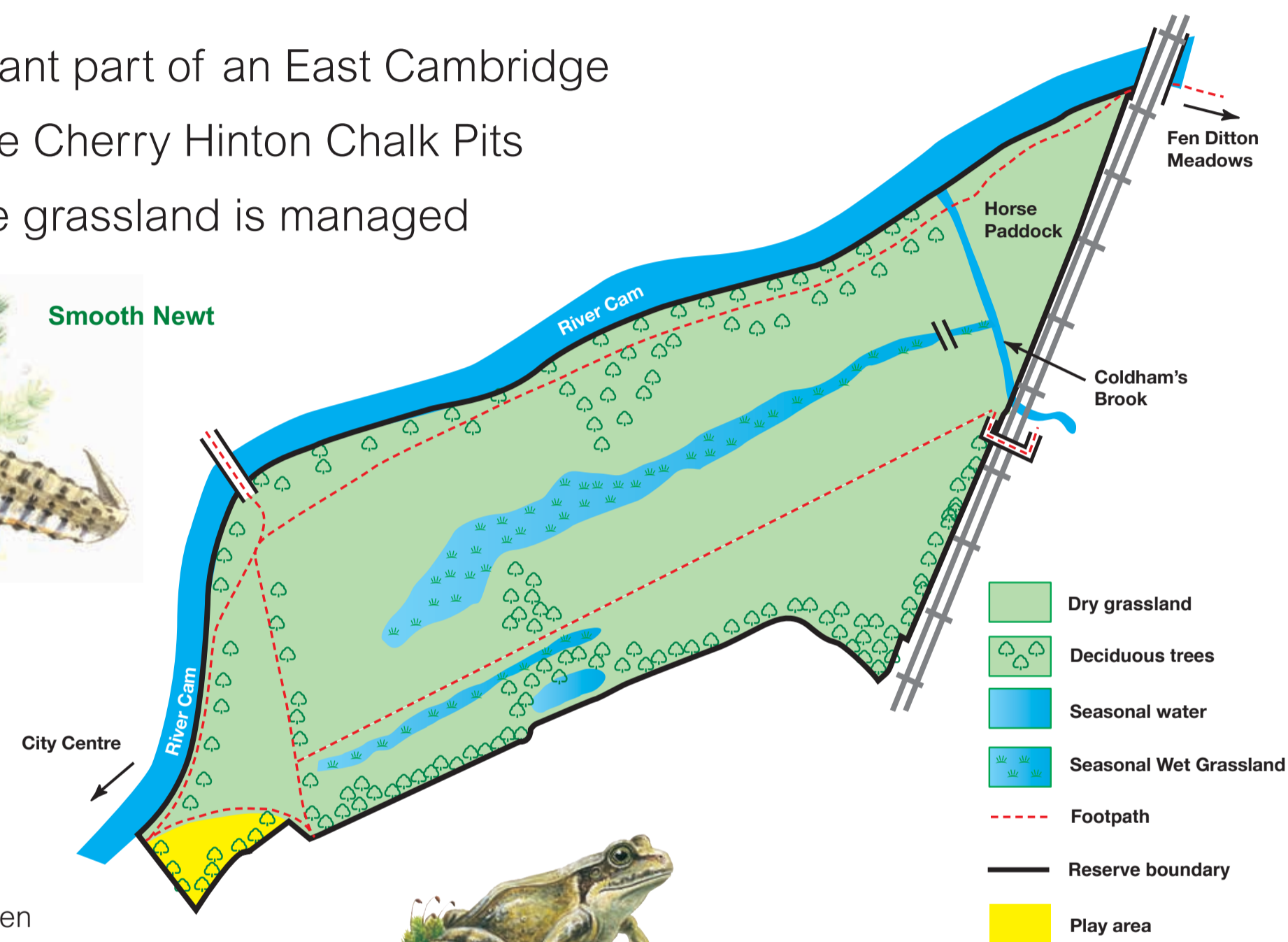
which in turn provide prey for species such as the **kestrel** which can often be seen hovering over the site, a nest box has been erected to encourage them to breed.

Coldham's Brook discharges into the River Cam at the north of the site. Rising from the chalk in Cherry Hinton (where it is known as Cherry Hinton Brook), this water course is an important



Little Grebe

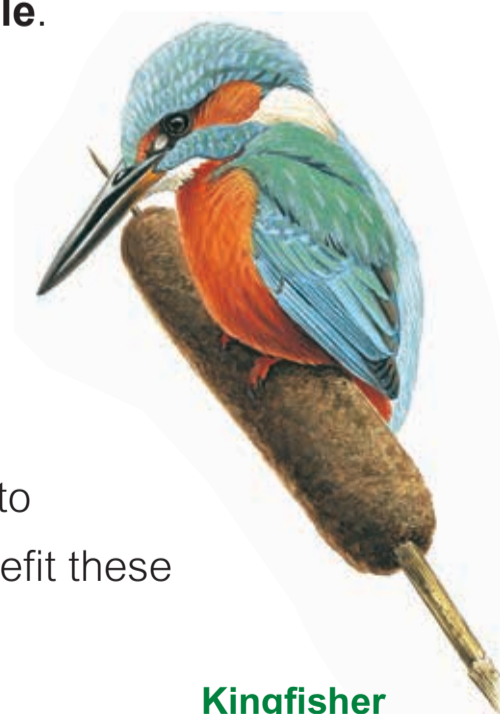
example of a chalk stream, supporting species such as the **Banded Demoiselle damselfly**, **Bullhead fish** and the



Common Frog

nationally declining **Water Vole**.

Although a busy water way with many house boats and rowers the River Cam supports a wealth of birdlife, lookout for **Grey Herons**, **Kingfisher**, **Little Grebe** and **Grey Wagtail**. A project to renaturalise the bank will benefit these and other species.



Kingfisher