



Stag beetle

- an important habitat for beetles, flies, ants, wasps, woodlice, centipedes and millipedes. Decaying wood is created by the natural ageing process of trees and the action of fungi. Decayed wood is good for insects and these in turn are the favourite menu items for birds and mammals.



Lime



Oak

Some of the ancient trees date from the medieval deer park and formed a landscape known as wood pasture. Wood pastures allowed a sustainable crop of timber, wood and forage to be harvested from the trees, while animals grazed beneath. As part of a wood pasture system, some of the ancient oaks in Farnham Park were pollarded. Pollarding is the cutting of tree branches out of reach of browsing animals such as deer and cattle. Once cut, the tree sprouts new shoots, which can be harvested again.

fieldfare often overwinter in the Park. If you are lucky, you might spot hovering kestrels, watching for field voles, buzzards soaring on the thermals or even red kites being mobbed by crows.

Kestrel



As grazing declined in the Park in the 20th century, woodland and scrub spread, creating different opportunities for wildlife. The hawthorn and dog rose provide important nectar sources for insects in summer and berries for birds and mammals in the winter.

Warblers such as the whitethroat are common in spring and summer, nesting in thick scrub and calling their scratchy song from the tops of bushes. Large flocks of redwing and

standing dead trees, all contain decaying wood hollow trunks and limbs of tree, their fallen branches, The living part of the veteran

### Dead good

part of our history, enduring war, hurricane and disease, with their beauty and mystery being honoured since time immemorial in poems, books and paintings. Some of the old oak trees in Farnham Park are truly ancient, their trunks broad in girth and crowned with majestic boughs.



Veteran trees, because of their great age, size or condition, are of exceptional value both for wildlife and their place in the cultural landscape. They are

### Honour the veterans

Farnham Park's most treasured possessions are its many old trees among the landscape of grassland and woodland, and its great crested newts within the ponds.

### Farnham's special treasures

Farnham Park is an historic deer park and a Local Nature Reserve. Relax and enjoy this wonderful countryside, just minutes from Farnham and Hale.

### Welcome to Farnham Park

Farnham Park is a wonderful place for wildlife. Its long history as a medieval deer park attached to Farnham Castle, and more recently as a public open space, has left it with many different habitats. There are meadows with majestic ancient trees, quiet ponds, winding streams and hidden dells to explore. Wild roe deer shelter in the woods while kestrels hover over the grassland hunting for mice and voles. In spring and summer, butterflies dance over the wild flowers and,



The Park was originally stocked with fallow deer

beneath the surface of the Park's ponds, great crested newts shelter among the water plants.



Today the Park is still home to roe deer



### Keeping it special

Farnham Park is a very special place for its history and its wildlife. Its importance is recognised nationally and it's listed as a Grade II Park and Garden of Special Historic Interest, Site of Nature Conservation Interest and a Local Nature Reserve. It is a proposed Historic Battlefield site.

Enjoy Farnham Park and help us protect it by....

- Binning your dog's mess (in any litter bin)
- Keeping your dog under close control
- Cycling with consideration for others
- Not lighting fires
- Reporting criminal incidents to the Police (101)

Farnham Park is managed by Waverley Borough Council. Contact the Ranger at the Park Office on 01252 717047. For out-of-hours emergencies, please ring 02392 242161.

[www.waverley.gov.uk/farnhampark](http://www.waverley.gov.uk/farnhampark)



### THE WILDLIFE OF FARNHAM PARK

The historic green heart of Farnham





## Fields of gold

Farnham Park contains a variety of grassland that is managed in different ways. Some is grazed by cattle to encourage a rough tussocky nature with anthills and pockets of scrub. A large part of the central grassland is cut once a year for hay, which prevents scrub from encroaching and maintains an open parkland landscape. On the southern slope below the Avenue, you will find chalk downland, comprising a delicate flower-rich meadow of harebells, field scabious, quaking grass and ladies

bedstraw. In spring, orange tip butterflies are a common sight feeding on the ladies smock flower and in high summer, clouds of gatekeepers, meadow browns, ringlets and marbled whites move silently among the grasses.



Orange tip

## A water park

The Nadder stream twists and turns across the northern part of the Park. It gets its name from the old English word 'nadder' meaning 'winding one'. There are other streams which are more seasonal, rising in heavy rain and then disappearing. There are also several 'swallow holes' where streams disappear underground when they cross from the clay to the more porous chalk.



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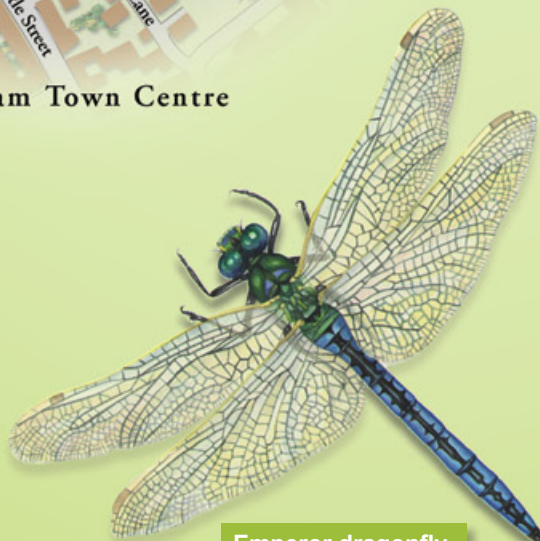
Harebell



Great spotted woodpecker

## Pond life

There are several ponds in the Park, all of a different character. Carron Pond is the largest and provides important habitat for breeding waterfowl while herons often fish on the edge. Aubrey's and Yo-Yo Pond are typical woodland ponds, where you might spot a grass snake gliding across the surface, while Deer Pond is good for watching swallows and house martins swooping low over the water, catching insects on balmy evenings. Friends Pond is alive with movement in the summer, with aerobic displays from the broad bodied chaser and emperor dragonflies.



Emperor dragonfly

## Secret residents

The ponds' most valued wildlife are the great crested newts. They get their name from the jagged ridge which runs along the back of the males. They're big, up to 17cm long, and look spectacular with black spots and bright yellowy-orange patches on their bellies. Great crested newts are protected by law - it is illegal to catch, handle or possess them without a licence, or to disturb them in their habitat.



Great crested newt