



# BOYS HALL

## *A view of history*

Recycling isn't new! In 1632, when Thomas Boys was extending Boys Hall (which stands in front of you) he used materials from the remains of an abandoned medieval house that he owned nearby. The old house occupied the island formed by the historic Boys Hall Moat, and the story goes that he had the building demolished after a child drowned in the moat.



*The local hunt gathering at Boy's Hall c1910*

The Boys family lived at Boys Hall for many years, and were wealthy farmers and landowners. It's said they were also involved in smuggling, as many of the landed gentry were at that time! If you catch a glimpse of a spectral figure, don't be surprised – the house has its fair share of ghosts, including a drunk who enjoys dancing round the dining room!



*Boys Hall Moat*

Photo: Susan Provan



*Whitethroat*

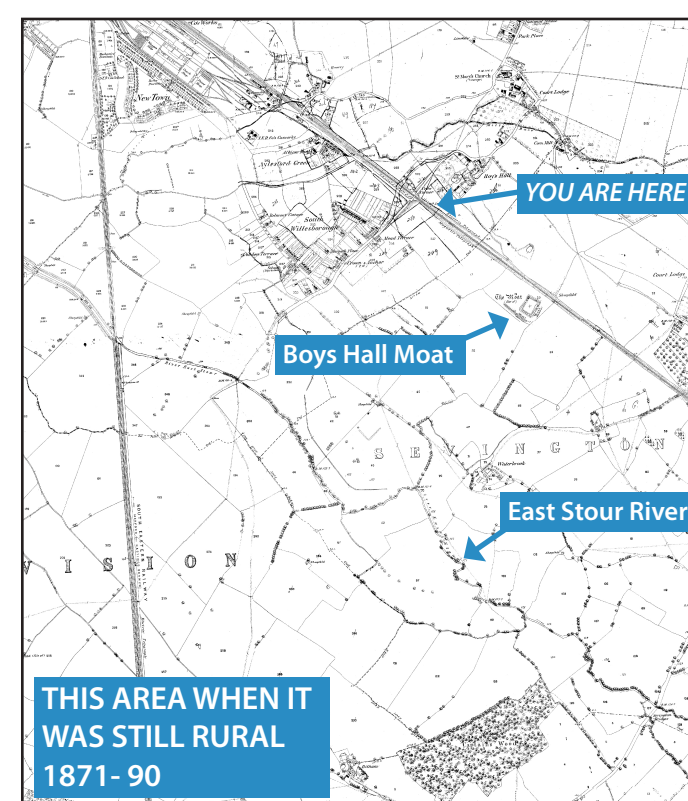


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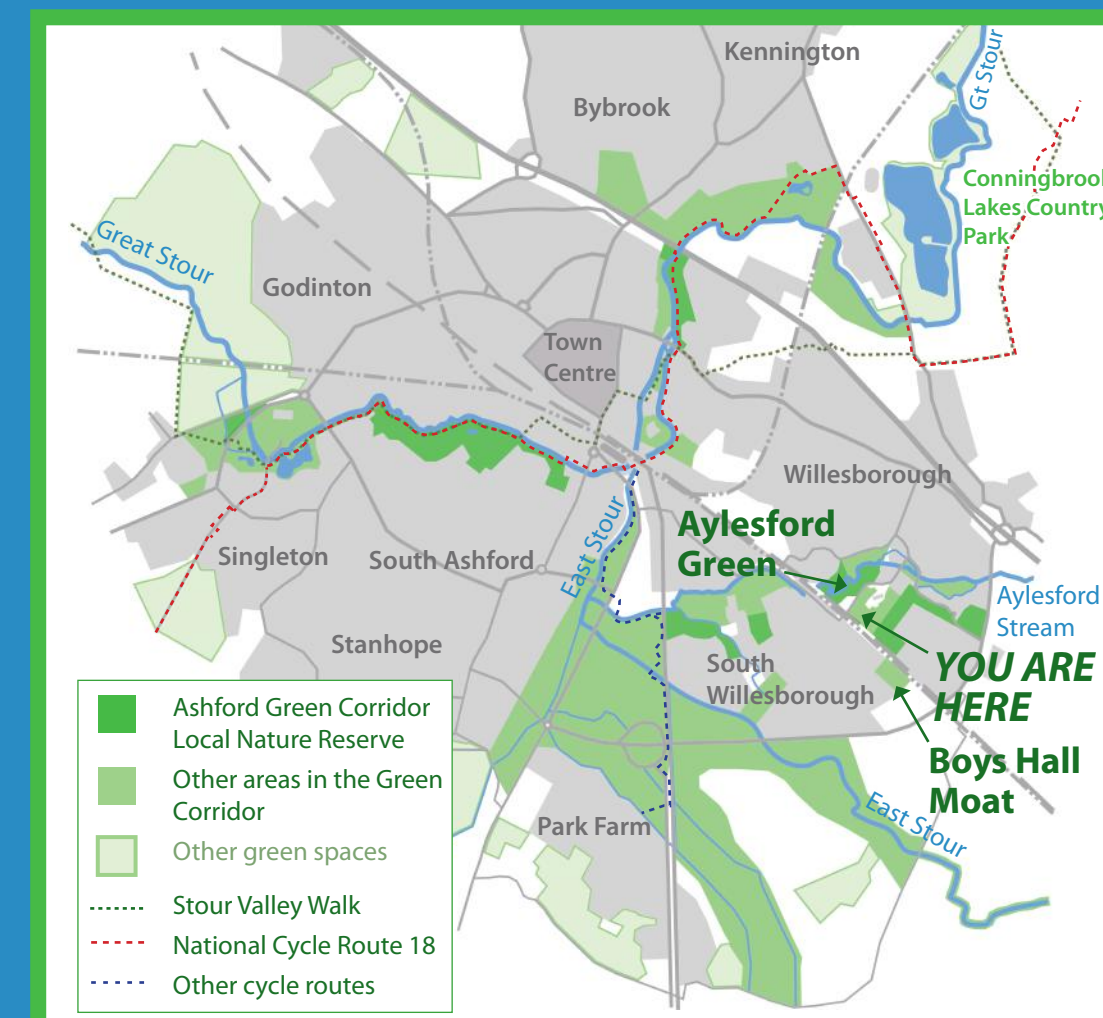
There are good wildlife habitats in this part of the Green Corridor. In the meadows and rough grasslands, plants like lady's bedstraw, oxeye daisy and bird's foot trefoil are nectar sources for butterflies, bees and other insects. Areas of native shrubs offer habitats for birds like chiffchaff and whitethroat, and small mammals. Mature, ornamental trees provide roosts for bats and there are populations of slow worms and common lizards.

From the high ground here you can look south across the High Speed 1 and mainline railways. Large industrial estates and other modern developments dominate the landscape today. But old maps show how different this view used to be: there was nothing but open fields, stretching towards the East Stour River and the high ground of Colliers Hill, which can be seen on the horizon.

*To access Boys Hall Moat, cross both railways via the footbridges.*



THIS AREA WHEN IT WAS STILL RURAL  
1871 - 90



## *The Ashford Green Corridor*

### **Discover one of Ashford's greatest assets!**

Since the middle of the 19th century Ashford has expanded but land close to the rivers has not been built on, due to the risk of flooding and because the Borough Council has protected it as green space. Some areas are designated as Local Nature Reserves.

The resulting undeveloped 'fingers' of land, around the rivers Great Stour, East Stour and Aylesford Stream, reach right into the heart of Ashford. Collectively they connect to form the Ashford Green Corridor, which provides both people and wildlife with routes through the town and to the countryside beyond.

*Boys Hall Moat*

*Aylesford Green*

An **Ashford Green Corridor leaflet**, which includes walking maps and information on other areas of the Corridor, can be downloaded as a PDF from [www.kentishstour.org.uk](http://www.kentishstour.org.uk) or by scanning the QR code.

