



FROG'S ISLAND

The clue is in the name!

Before it became built up, this part of Ashford would have been wide, open marshland. Although this landscape was farmed, the wet fields, drainage ditches and ponds would still have been full of wildlife. Today the area continues to have open ditches and has been enhanced with features that have brought wetland habitats back to the area.



Scrape and meadow habitats
Inset: six-spot burnet moth

As you explore the park you'll see shallow, wet areas called 'scrapes', and rough vegetation with lots of sedges and rushes - grasses that are well adapted to damp conditions. Wetland wild flowers like purple loosestrife and meadowsweet also grow here. When holding water the scrapes are habitat for aquatic insects and the common frog, the amphibian that gave this area its name.

Photo: Gary Johnston



Common frog

While there are large areas of short mown grass, wide margins of longer vegetation or meadow have been left. In places they are rich in wild flowers, such as ox-eye daisy, musk mallow and lady's bedstraw, that attract butterflies like the marbled white and small skipper, as well as a day-flying moth called the six-spot burnet. This is also ideal habitat for common lizards, which can be seen basking in the sun to warm up their cold blood.



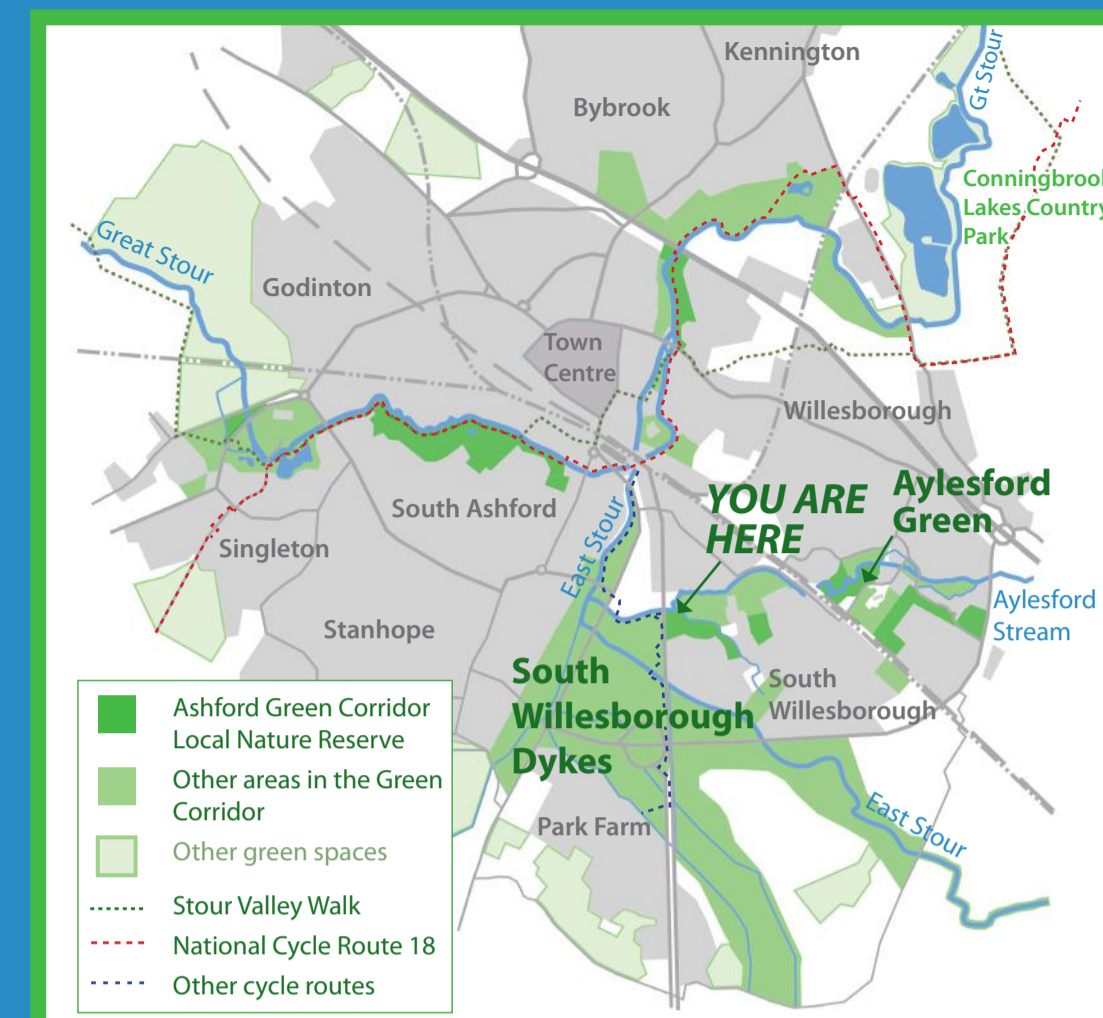
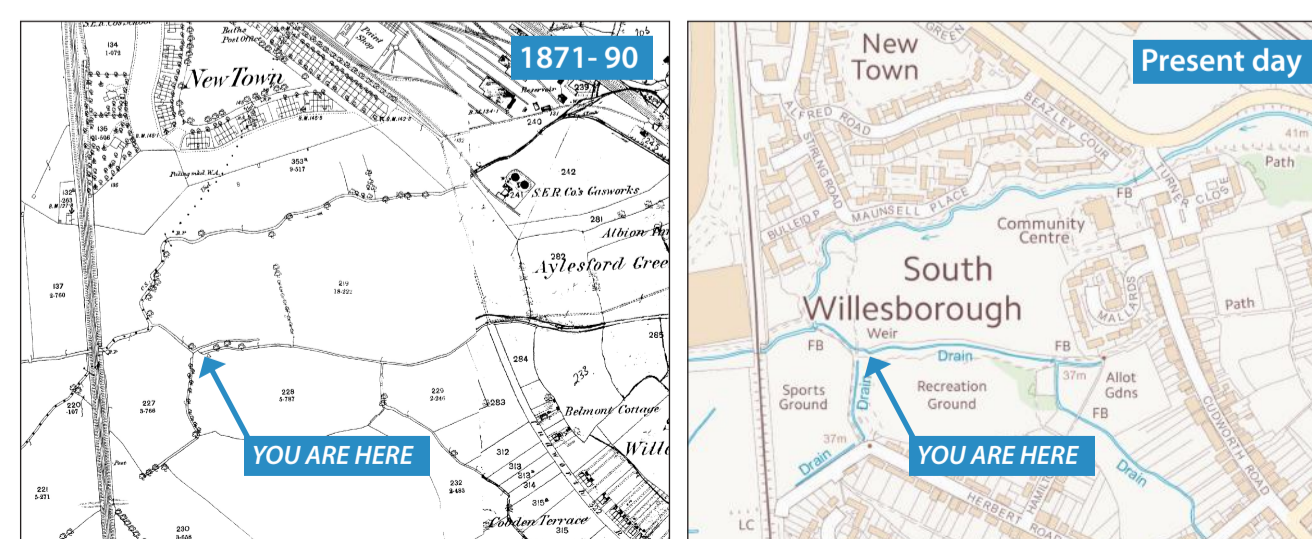
Childrens' event in
Frog orchard



Musk mallow

Not far from here a new community orchard, named Frog Orchard by local people, was planted in 2006. It brings another traditional landscape back to South Willesborough for people to enjoy.

Old maps of the area show fields that have been lost to housing. This green space survived, however, and still retains the same shape as the original fields shown on a map of 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.

Gas House Fields & Aylesford Green

South Willesborough Dykes

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 or by scanning the QR code.

