



# QUEEN MOTHER'S PARK

*A town park with country wildlife*

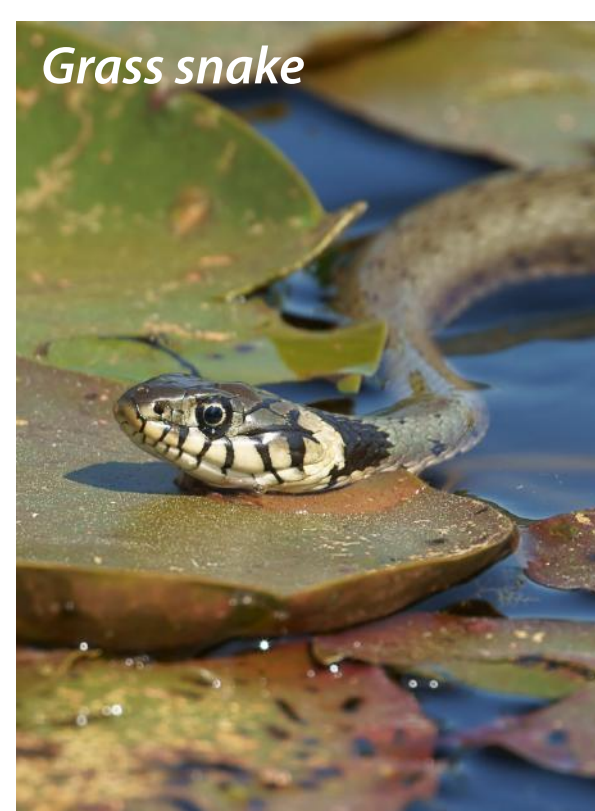
Queen Mother's Park may be surrounded by light industry and roads, but the trees, meadow, and Great Stour River make it a home to wildlife you might think more at home in the countryside.



Photo: K. Clama

Grey wagtail

The grey wagtail is an uncommon bird you may see flying over or perching close to the river channel. Grass snakes hunt near water and can also be seen swimming across the river. The banded demoiselle damselfly is found on the wing in early summer; surely one of our most beautiful insects.

Stream dipping  
in the park

Grass snake

A large area of wild flower meadow has been established along the eastern edge of the site. This species rich habitat, once common in the countryside, has declined dramatically in recent years. In fact this ordinary town park may well have better habitats than some farmland today!

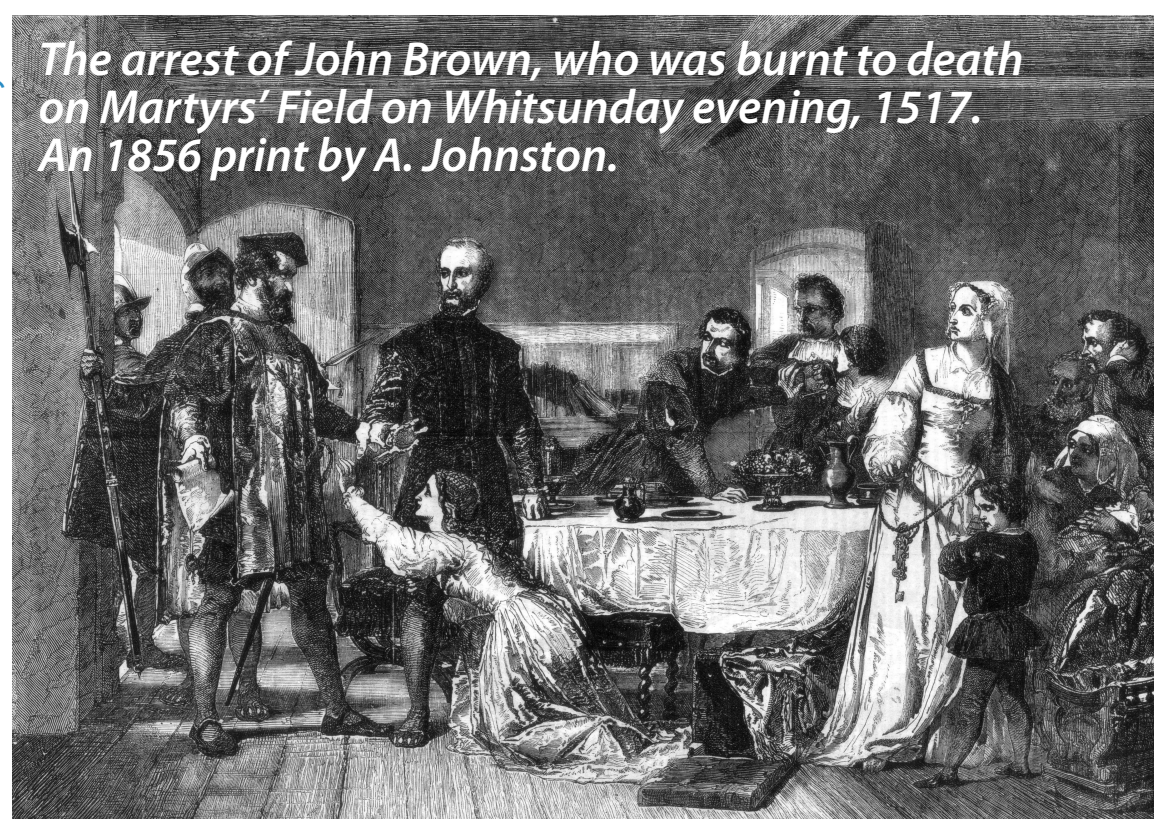


Meadow

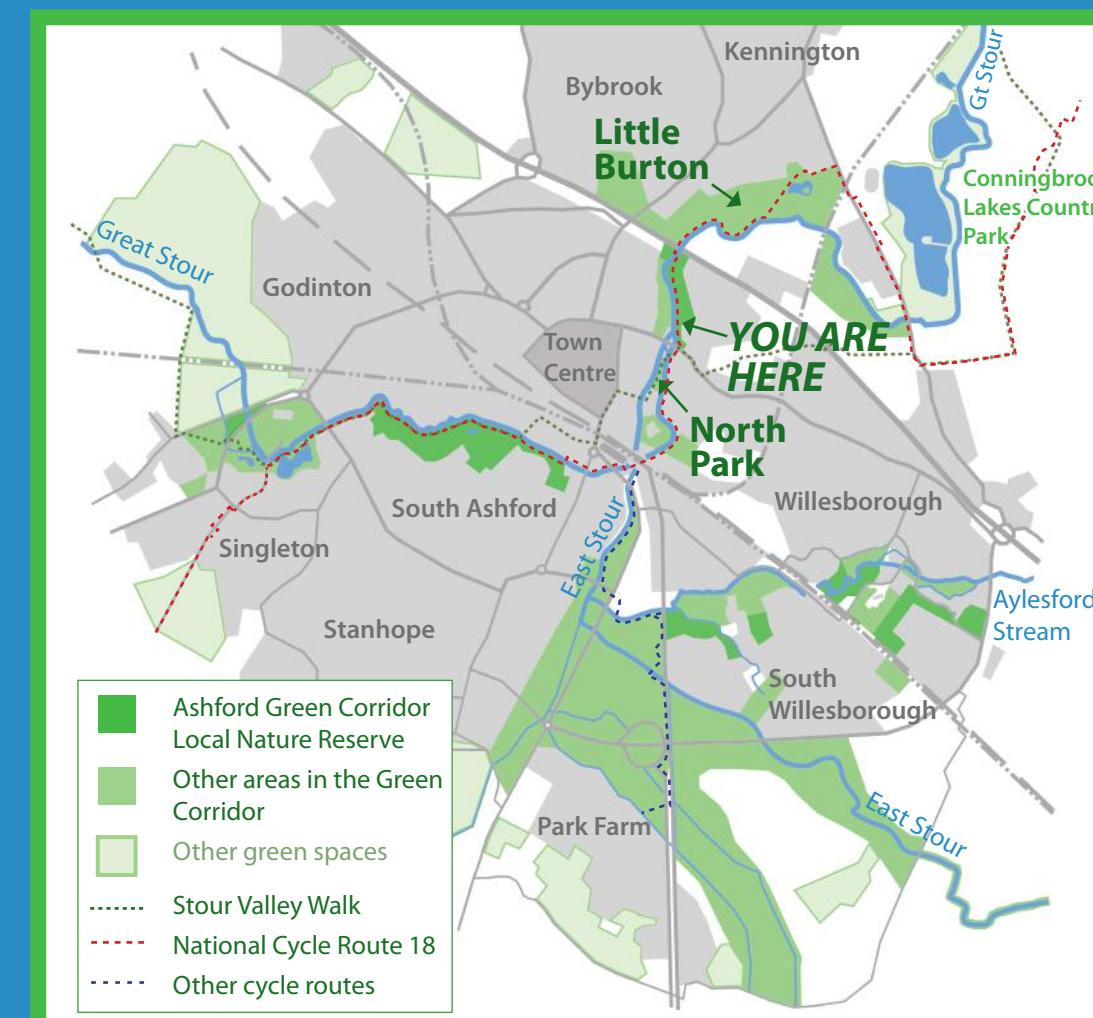
Of course this area was once rural. Early Ordnance Survey maps suggest that in the late 19th century this land was sheep pasture, a past celebrated by one of a series of sculptures by Martin Brockman and Mark Sidders.

These maps also show the name Martyr's Field in the southern part of the park – a reference to a dark chapter in the history of this place. During the 16th Century, John Brown and two other local men were burnt to death here for their religious beliefs. All their names are listed on a memorial stone nearby.

Photo: Alamy.com



The arrest of John Brown, who was burnt to death on Martyrs' Field on Whitsunday evening, 1517. An 1856 print by A. Johnston.



## 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.

Little Burton

North Park

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.

