



# SINGLETON LAKE

## Signs and songs of nature

The large expanse of open water makes Singleton Lake home to birds not seen at many other Green Corridor sites. The deep waters are ideal for diving birds such as great crested grebe and tufted duck.

Great crested grebe, female and juvenile

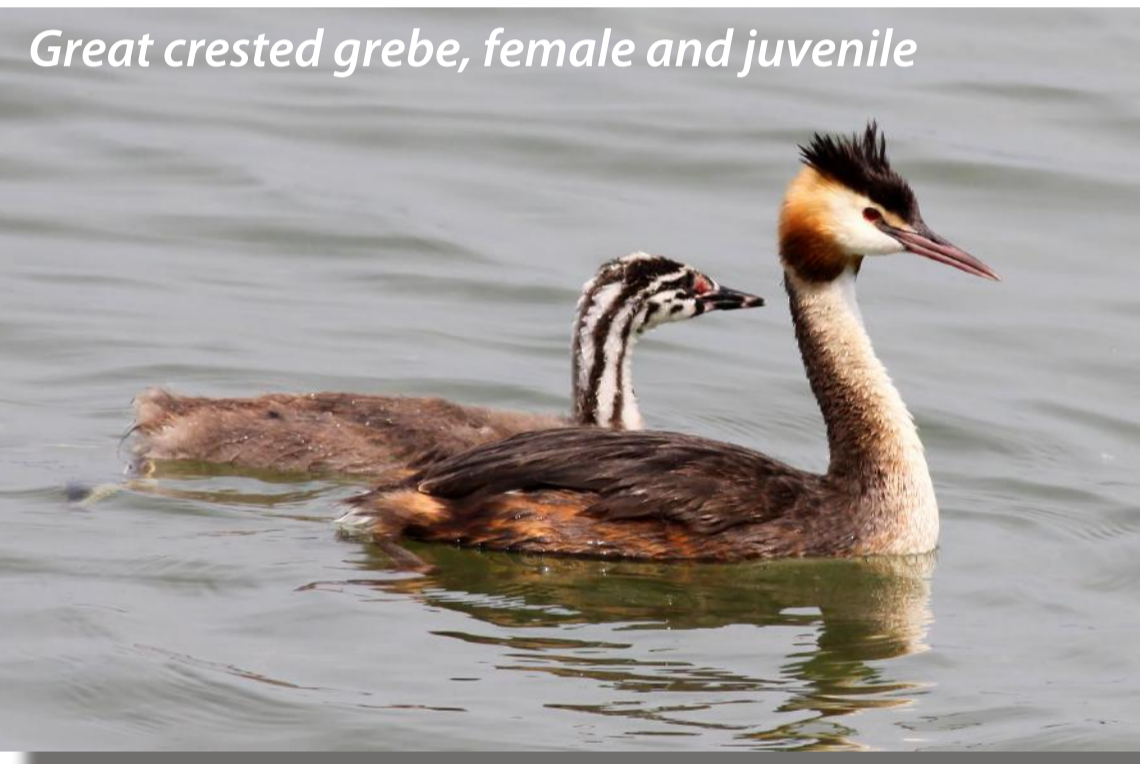


Photo: Ken Billington

Greylag geese and mute swans also congregate here, particularly in winter. The trees and shrubs around the lake are great habitat for black cap and chiff-chaff and have attracted that great singing star, the nightingale.

Nightingale



Photo: Andreas Treppe

Look across the lake and you may see a bird in flight over the water that doesn't require a place to nest. This sculpture of a heron is by Anthony Gormley, creator of *The Angel of the North*.

Common toad



Photo: Jo Taylor

Emperor dragonfly



Photo: Barracuda

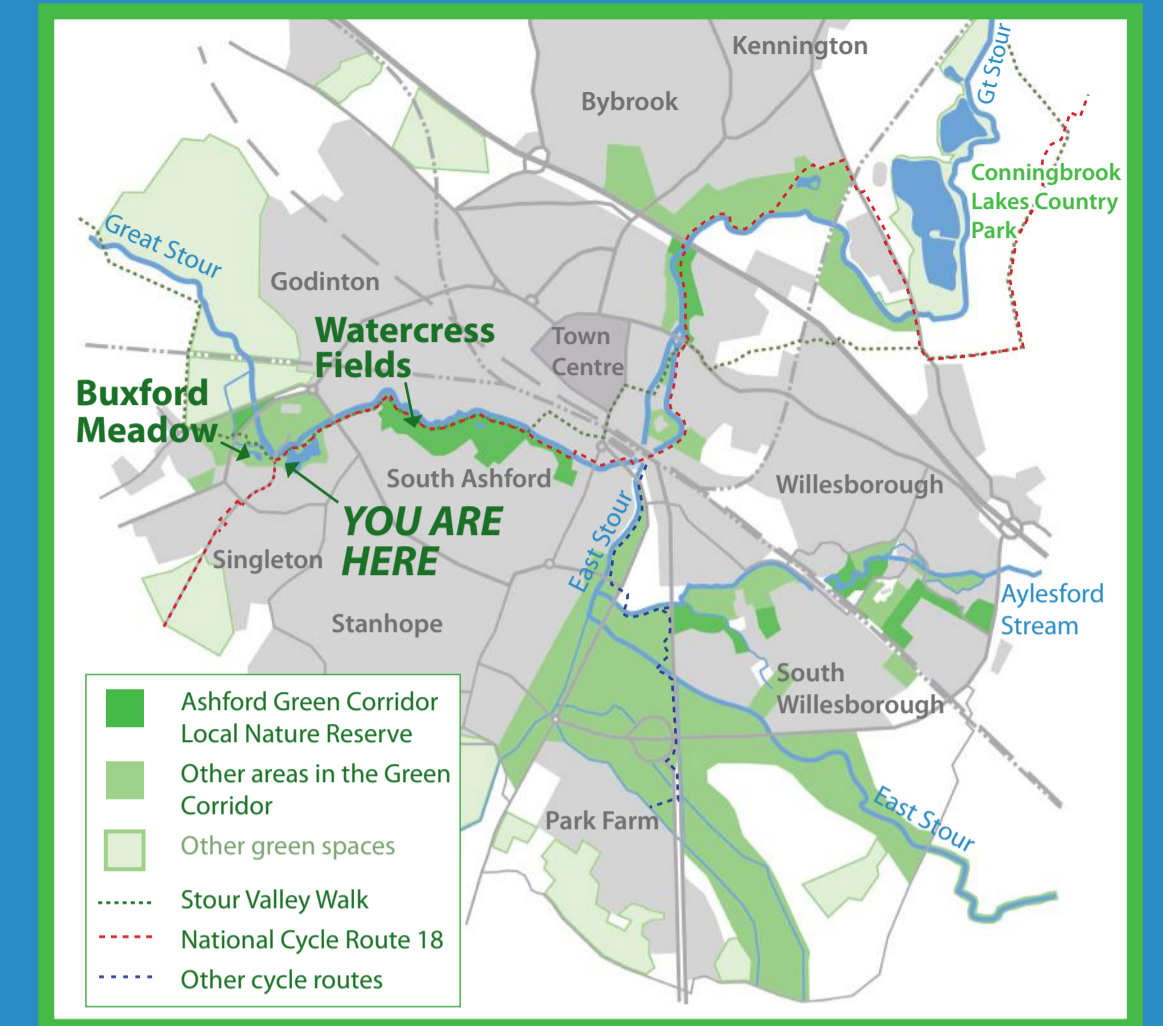


Pipistrelle bat

But it's not all about birds! Wetland plants like yellow flag iris and reed-mace thrive at the water's edge – great habitat for insects such as Britain's largest dragonfly, the emperor. Visit at night and you might spot bats in flight, feeding on small insects; species include Daubenton's and pipistrelle. Lake margins and ditches also provide a home for amphibians.

The suburb of Singleton and the lake take their name from a much older settlement - the manor of Singleton. The manor house, surrounded by a moat, is not far from the lake, near the school and the Singleton Barn pub. The existing house probably dates from the 16th century, but the moat is almost certainly older. The name Singleton is a corruption of the Old English 'shyngle tone', meaning a farmstead with a shingled roof.

The lake is also a popular fishing spot, but you must have a permit and respect the rules! For more information about fishing contact the Ashford Angling Society – [www.ashfordangling.co.uk](http://www.ashfordangling.co.uk).



### 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.

Buxford Meadow

Watercress Fields

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.

