

# Wildlife in Colchester

Visit a Colchester Borough Council Reserve to discover more



Godwit



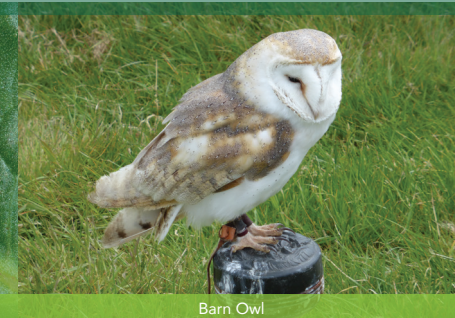
Nightingale



Reed Bunting



Lesser Marsh Grasshopper



Barn Owl

## COLNE LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

32 hectares

Woodland, grassland & marsh

- Car park and picnic areas
- Unsurfaced path network including some boardwalk
- Forest Schools outdoor classroom (bookable)

Wivenhoe Wood is best in spring when it's floor is a carpet of wild flowers. It has 16 tree species and is managed in the traditional way, by coppicing. This creates a patchwork of areas at different stages of regrowth, providing nesting habitat for Nightingales and Blackcaps.

Lower Lodge was farmed until the 1980s and now is managed as grassland. It provides cover for lizards, sometimes seen sunning themselves on fence posts and tree trunks, and for grasshoppers and crickets. Paths are cut through for walkers and offer fine views over the Colne Estuary.

Ferry Marsh is former grazing marsh with a network of brackish ditches, supporting a good population of Water Voles. Nesting birds including Reed and Sedge Warbler, and a Barn Owl patrols regularly at dusk. From the path on top of the sea wall many waders can be seen feeding along the river.

## FREE PEDESTRIAN ACCESS TO ALL SITES, ALL DAY EVERY DAY

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### Key to maps

Habitats	Facilities
grassland	parking area
scrub	entrance
ancient woodland	footpath
coppice woodland	cycle track
marsh	railway line
hedgerow	road
Water bodies	play area
	picnic area
Site boundary	



Colchester Natural History Society  
Colchester Natural History Society kindly secured the funding for this display and provided much of the information. The Society produces regular publications including a newsletter and programme of events. CNHS holds field meetings and evening talks throughout the year. New members always welcome.  
[www.colchesternaturalhistorysociety.org.uk](http://www.colchesternaturalhistorysociety.org.uk)

Colchester Borough Council Ranger Service  
The ranger service manage and maintain these green spaces throughout Colchester. They work closely with various community groups and volunteers to achieve high standards of conservation and to provide recreation and educational opportunities in the local area.  
[www.colchester.gov.uk/parks](http://www.colchester.gov.uk/parks)