



Thank you to one of our lovely volunteers, Fiona, who has designed this exciting walk. This is a wetland area with shallow pools and a stream so children must be with an adult. It can be muddy on the path at this time of year so wear your wellies!

1.



Enter through the kissing gate on Radley Road, between the end of Kennet Road and Radley Road Industrial Estate, on the East side.

2. Coal Fungus



These black, lumps of fungus are also known as cramp balls or King Alfred's cakes. These fungi can last for years. **Don't touch! Some fungi are poisonous!**

3. Tiny Snails



You might see tiny snails on stinging nettles or other green plants.

4. Burdock



Burdock root can be cooked and tastes a bit like parsnip. It is used in the fizzy drink - Dandelion and Burdock. The giant leaves used to be used to wrap food.

5. English Ivy



Mature English ivy flowers in the autumn and attracts lots of pollinating insects like bees.

6. Sycamore Trees



Dead chunks of wood are slowly broken up by insects and the weather. Look for the little holes made by woodworm, the larvae of wood-eating beetles.

7. Rushes



The appearance of clumps of rushes marks the start of the true wetland part of the walk. Rushes have rounded stems.

8. Sedges



Sedges grow in shallow water and have been around for more than 160 million years. They usually have stems that are triangular in cross-section.

9. Reeds

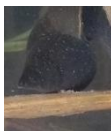


The feathery reeds in the reed beds grow as tall as an adult. They cover the watery mud beneath. This deepens to a pond as you move along the path.

10. Great Pond Snails (*Lymnaea stagnalis*)



Near the edge of the pond you might see Great Pond Snails which can grow to 4.5 - 6cm long. **Mind you don't fall in!**



11. White dead-nettles



They look like stinging nettles but have large white clumps of flowers rather than hanging clusters of tiny flowers - and don't sting.

12. Teasels (over the bridge)



The prickly brown seed heads of teasels are important as they provide food for birds, such as the goldfinch.

13. Spindle tree



Don't touch, they are very poisonous! The tree's hard wood was sharpened in the past to make spindles for wool spinning.

14. Moss



Moss grows on tree branches. Look closely to see its feathery structure.

15. Water Voles



Near the exit you can get up close to the stream for the first time. Look out for water voles along the bank.

The Abbey Fishponds Nature Reserve is cared for by The Earth Trust. More can be found out on their website: <https://earthtrust.org.uk/visit-us/abbey-fishponds/>