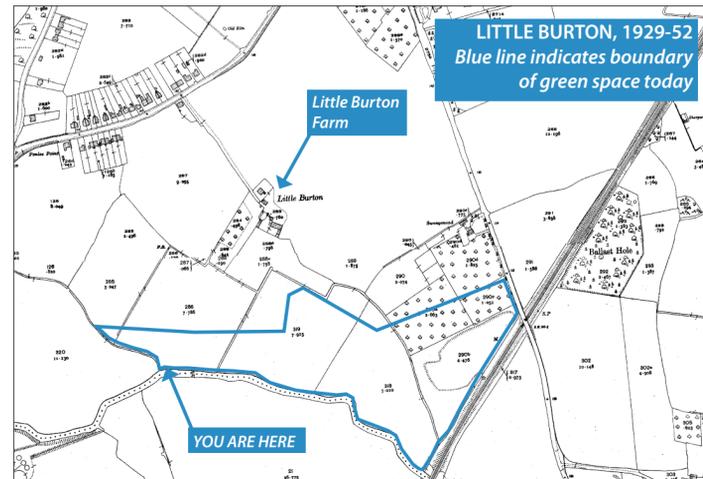




LITTLE BURTON

Big on wildlife

Some parts of Ashford underwent the change from rural to urban over a hundred years ago. In this area the change was much more recent. The land on which the nearby housing estate was built and took its name from, was part of a farm called Little Burton. It was covered with extensive orchards as recently as the 1990s. Earlier in the century it was a mixture of orchards and pasture, all surrounding a small Georgian farmhouse, which still exists, although much altered.



When the housing estate was built, the developers used the land closest to the river, which is prone to flooding, for public space. With the creation of a large pond, extensive tree planting and provision of cycle-paths and footpaths, the green space you see was formed.

A wonderful range of habitats have developed here, that support many species of plants and animals. The pond is a habitat for dragonflies and wetland birds such as moorhen, while the marshy area near the



Ruddy darter



Children exploring the marshy area.



Greater knapweed in the meadow

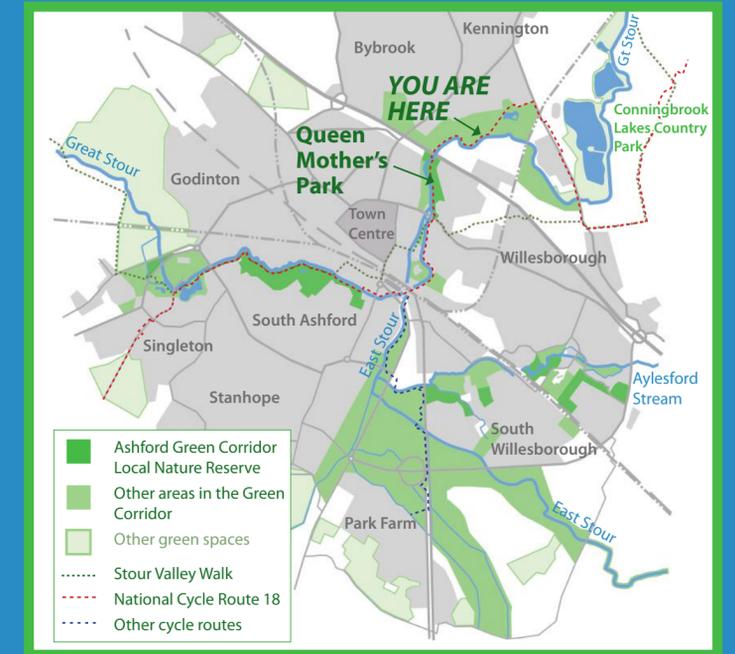
railway is perfect for wetland plants such as reedmace and meadowsweet. As the trees mature, good woodland ecosystems are developing. New areas of meadow are adding even greater biodiversity while also restoring a disappearing, species-rich, habitat.

The Great Stour runs along the edge of the green space, itself an excellent corridor for wildlife. The colourful flash of a kingfisher is often glimpsed, and many other birds, amphibians and aquatic insects thrive in the river and on its banks.



Photo: Ruth King

Kingfisher



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.



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.

