

Welcome to the Grange Estate



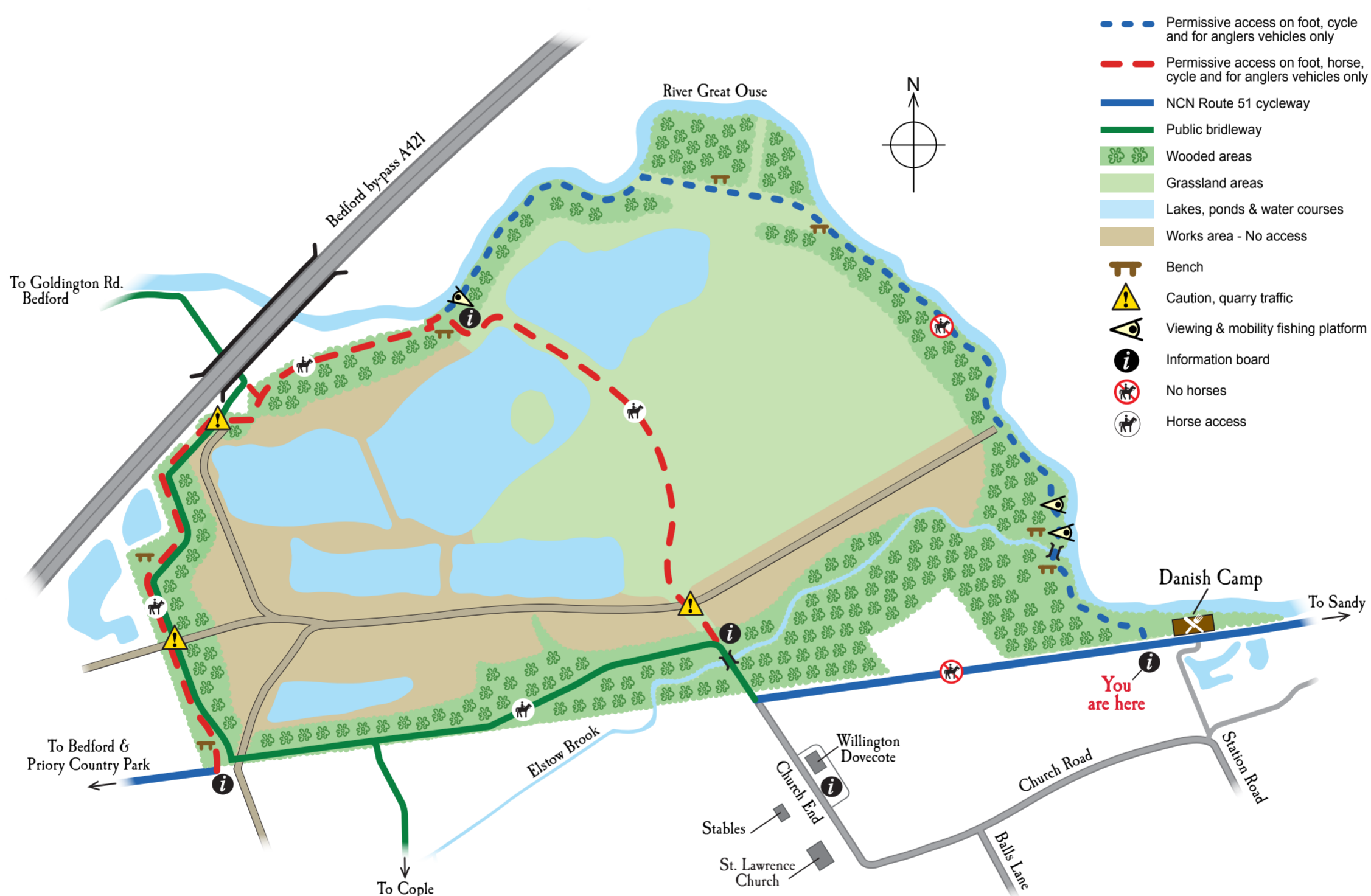
This site, known as the Grange Estate, was once owned by Bryant & May who planted poplars here in the 1960's for matchstick production. 'Matchstick Wood' was cleared during the 1980's to make way for extraction of the underlying sand and gravel. Recently acquired by the Marston Vale Trust, the Grange Estate lies at the heart of the area destined to become the Bedford River Valley Park. The Trust has been working with adjacent landowners to produce a framework document which describes the agreed vision of how this 3.5 square miles to the east of Bedford will be transformed into a major new greenspace that will become a great benefit for people, wildlife and the landscape.

Past current and future mineral extraction within the area has presented the opportunity to sculpt a new landscape, thereby creating the Bedford River Valley Park. Key proposals are being developed for projects ranging from creating a 2.3km rowing lake, to converting an area of about 240 hectares into floodplain forest, (a mosaic of wet and dry woodlands, wetlands and grasslands) to provide an 'ecological heartland' of potentially national biodiversity value, within which networks of paths and trails will create access for walking and riding.

Exploring the Grange Estate

Please use the designated surfaced paths around the perimeter and interior of the site that connect to the surrounding public rights of way network from Bedford, Cople and Sandy. The nearest public car park is located at Priory Country Park, Bedford.

Gravel extraction and processing operations are active within the Grange Estate so please stay on the designated cycleway and bridleway shown on the plan, and always keep your dog under close control as even your pet could harm ground nesting birds, other wildlife and livestock.



For further information about the Bedford River Valley Park or the Forest of Marston Vale, please visit www.marstonvale.org or phone: 01234 767037.

Supported by:



and with support from Willington Parish Council and The Internal Drainage Board.

The Marston Vale Trust is an independent charity (No. 1069229), set up to create the Forest of Marston Vale, whose aim is to work with local communities, government and businesses, to use trees and woodlands to repair landscapes scarred by decades of mineral extraction, brick making and landfill.

Bedford River Valley Park
Part of the Forest of Marston Vale

We hope you enjoy your visit