

A Retained Agricultural Heart



Soprano pipistrelle
Pipistrellus pygmaeus



Bats

Common and widespread species of bat have previously been observed across the Bittesby Country Park area:

- common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*
- soprano pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*
- noctule *Nyctalus noctula*, *Myotis* sp
- brown long-eared bat *Plecotus auritus*.

The woodland corridor along the former dismantled railway corridor was found to be a regularly used commuting corridor and foraging route.

Did you know?

A short distance from here, under what is now Magna Park was a busy airfield called RAF Bitteswell. The site was first used in the summer of 1940 as an emergency landing ground. It was upgraded to an aerodrome with two hangars and a grass landing strip in 1941. In 1942 hard runways were put in place and No. 29 Operational Training Unit moved in.



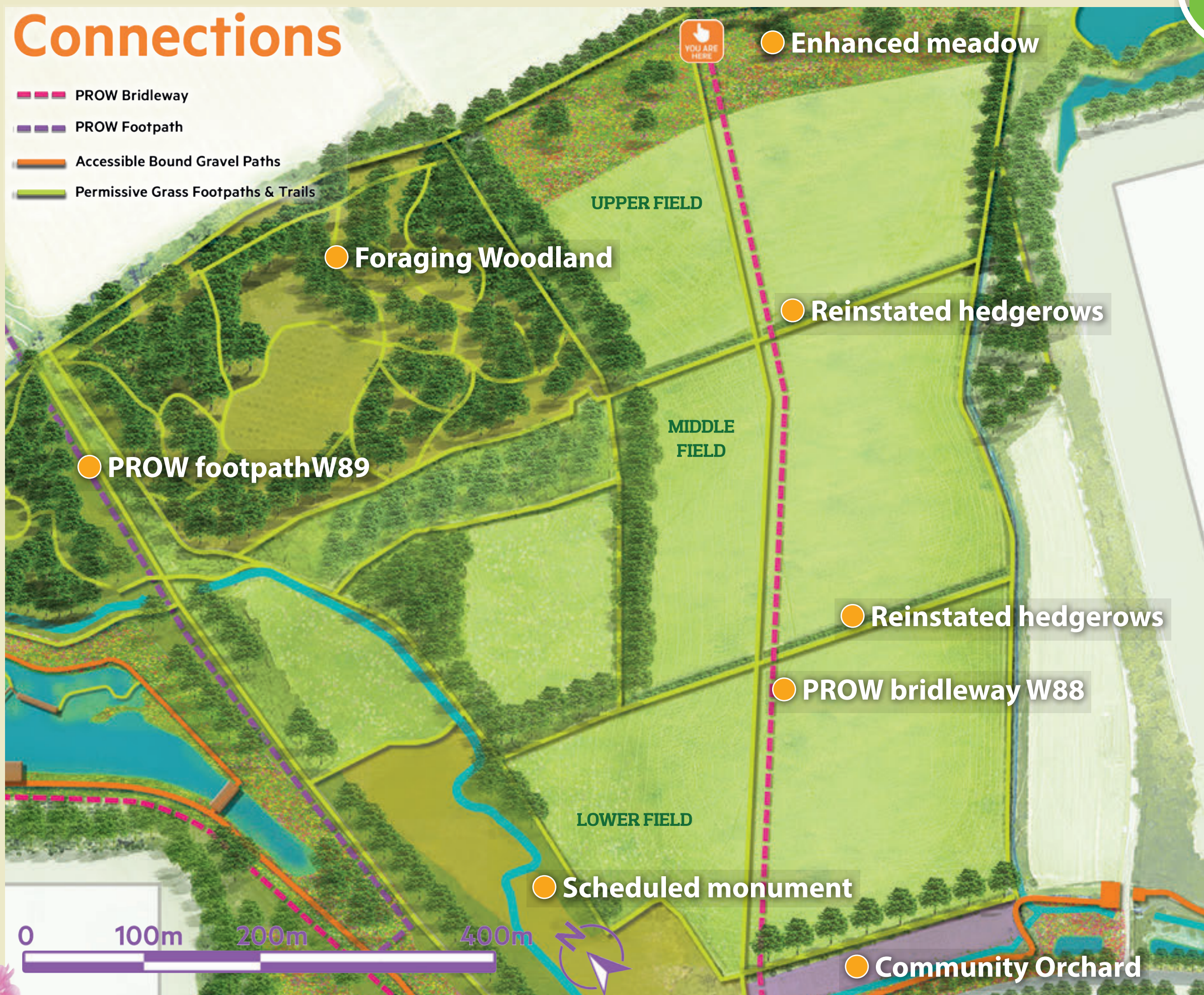
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A retained agricultural heart.

At the heart of Bittesby Country Park lies its retained agricultural heart. 25.8ha (64 acres) of grazing land has been retained or returned to agricultural use. This is now subdivided into smaller field patterns by reinstating the native hedgerows which both interconnect the surrounding woodlands and create natural field boundaries. This working landscape has been further enriched by the community orchards, productive woodlands and forest gardens, alongside the grazing and hay meadow production.

Connections

- PROW Bridleway
- PROW Footpath
- Accessible Bound Gravel Paths
- Permissive Grass Footpaths & Trails



Brown Hare -
Lepus europaeus

Brown hares can regularly be seen running through, and hiding in the long grass – can you spot one?



Species rich meadow

Lowland meadows provide a rich wildlife habitat and are treasured components of our pastoral and historical landscapes. Filled with native wild flowers and grass species in which a diverse range of bees, butterflies, insects, amphibians, birds, and small mammals can find food and a home.

These landscapes are actively managed grasslands, cut at regular intervals through the year that complement the managed grazing habitats to the lower field patterns. Unimproved by fertilisers, lowland meadows and pastures are cut for hay in early summer after the flowering plants set seed, the meadow is then further grazed in the autumn.

Can you spot?

A diverse range of species rich meadows and species can be found across Bittesby Country Park. How many can you spot?



Badger - *Meles meles*

5 Badger setts are known across Bittesby Country Park located around the centre along the disused railway embankment, and watercourses. Badger latrines and snuffle holes can be found throughout the Park.



Lady's Bedstraw
Galium verum



Red Campion
Silene dioica



Kidney Vetch
Anthyllis vulneraria



Ribwort Plantain
Plantago lanceolata



Salad Burnet
Poterium sanguisorba
ssp *sanguisorba*



Viper's-bugloss
Echium vulgare

Low intensity traditional grazing

To support the existing setting of the Scheduled Monument and the desire to promote local heritage and productive landscapes, Bittesby Country Park facilitates the continued integration of grazing at the heart of the park through a traditional heritage grazing grass and wildflower mix, providing low intensity grazing opportunities.