

## ECOLOGY

Millbridge Brook Meadows has an abundance of wildlife to enjoy all year round. The brook is home to the 3 Spine Stickleback. Alongside the banks of the brook you can see Water Voles and Moorhens, and if you are lucky, you may catch a glimpse of a Kingfisher.

Swallows visit during the summer, while winter brings Redwings and Fieldfares, visitors Scandinavia and North Eastern Europe.

Chaffinches and Goldfinches often drink and bathe at the brook's edge, keeping a wary eye for predators such as Sparrowhawks.

Both Great Spotted Woodpeckers and Green Woodpeckers can be seen (and heard).

From spring through to late autumn there are many butterflies to see, including the Meadow Brown, Marbled White and Small Tortoiseshell, as well as the Peacock and the bright yellow Brimstone.

Plants that live in the meadows range from the purple Knapweed and the blue Wild Clary to the Rosebay Willowherb and Stinging Nettles.

*More information about the site's wildlife can be found on the information boards.*



Peacock Butterfly



Kingfisher



Rosebay Willowherb



Peacock Caterpillar

# Millbridge Brook Meadows

## HERITAGE & WILDLIFE WALK



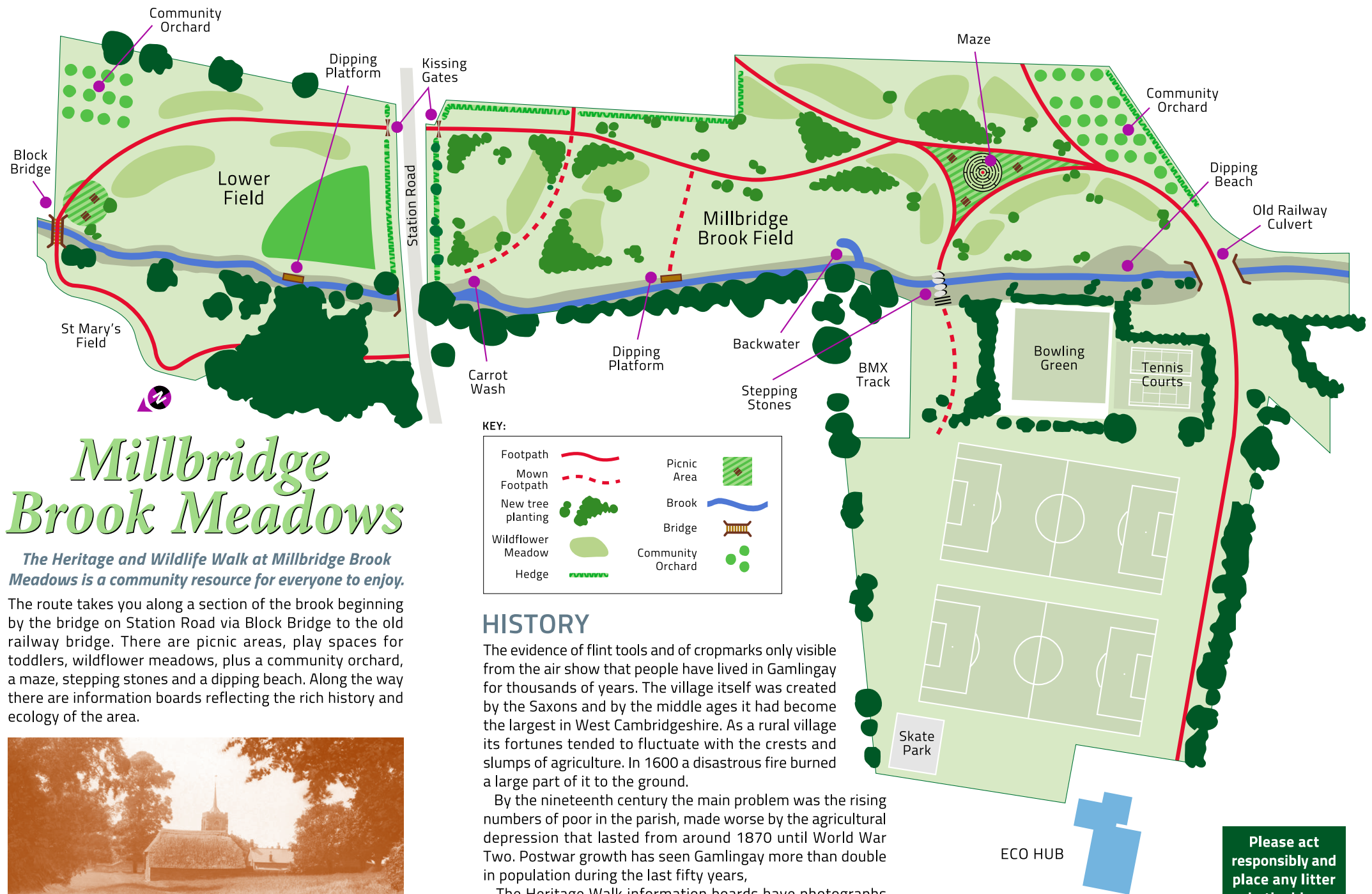
The Millbridge Brook Meadows Heritage and Wildlife Walk was brought to fruition by the assistance and co-operation of these organisations and companies.



# Millbridge Brook Meadows



## HERITAGE & WILDLIFE WALK



# Millbridge Brook Meadows

*The Heritage and Wildlife Walk at Millbridge Brook Meadows is a community resource for everyone to enjoy.*

The route takes you along a section of the brook beginning by the bridge on Station Road via Block Bridge to the old railway bridge. There are picnic areas, play spaces for toddlers, wildflower meadows, plus a community orchard, a maze, stepping stones and a dipping beach. Along the way there are information boards reflecting the rich history and ecology of the area.



## HISTORY

The evidence of flint tools and of cropmarks only visible from the air show that people have lived in Gamlingay for thousands of years. The village itself was created by the Saxons and by the middle ages it had become the largest in West Cambridgeshire. As a rural village its fortunes tended to fluctuate with the crests and slumps of agriculture. In 1600 a disastrous fire burned a large part of it to the ground.

By the nineteenth century the main problem was the rising numbers of poor in the parish, made worse by the agricultural depression that lasted from around 1870 until World War Two. Postwar growth has seen Gamlingay more than double in population during the last fifty years,

The Heritage Walk information boards have photographs and illustrations to help you understand some of the long and varied history of the area you are walking through.

**Please act responsibly and place any litter in the bins provided.**