



**London Borough
of Hounslow**

Bedfont Lakes Country Park

Clockhouse Lane
Bedfont, Middlesex
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E: bedfont.lakes@continental-landscapes.co.uk

Cranford Country Park

The Parkway, Cranford
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Hounslow Heath

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Nature Leaflet

Habitats



Habitats

A habitat is quite simply the place in which anything, plant or animal, lives.

Habitats are generally defined by the type and structure of the vegetation and/or ground type that makes up the majority of that habitat. e.g. wet willow woodlands, reedbeds, grasslands, bare soil.

Each habitat is home to its own specific groups of plant and animal species though many species can be found in more than one habitat.

Habitat Management

All habitats need to be managed to keep them in optimum condition for wildlife as the majority will suffer from succession. This is the process whereby natural processes take place that will cause the habitat to succeed back to what is called a climax habitat. In Britain this is normally broad-leaved woodland. Although woodlands are important habitats in themselves, the loss of all the other habitats would lead to a massive drop in the number of species present in the Borough and Britain.

Different habitats in the Borough and associated wildlife

There are many types of habitats across our countryside estate. However, some of the most important habitats in the London Borough of Hounslow include: Dry Lowland Heath, Acid Grassland, Reedbeds and Wet Willow Woodland.

Other habitats of note in the Borough include the River Crane Valley, Old flood meadows (Green Lane) and Thames foreshore (Dukes Hollow).



Biodiversity

Most London Boroughs have Biodiversity Action Plans, and Hounslow is no exception, being one of the greenest Boroughs in London. Our Countryside Ranger team is also one of the most pro-active, being at the forefront of much important habitat work in the Borough and also networking with other organisations in London.

Type of habitat	Where it is found	Wildlife associated
Lowland dry heathland	Hounslow Heath	Adder, Stonechat, Heathers
Lowland dry acid grassland	Hounslow Heath	Harebell, Heath Bedstraw, Small Copper butterfly
Reedbeds	Bedfont Lakes Country Park	Reed Warbler, Water Rail, Bittern, Wainscot Moths
Wet willow woodland	Bedfont Lakes Country Park	Willow, Alder, Goat Moth, Bats
Lowland neutral grassland	Cranford Park	Bee Orchid, Yellow Rattle, Skylark, Common Blue butterfly
Mixed woodland	Cranford Park	Woodpeckers, Bats, Speckled Wood butterfly, Nuthatch

