

## Local Nature Reserves

### Greatham Beck

Greatham Beck is a small but important nature reserve, covering approximately 1 hectare which runs the length of the western edge of the Fens Estate.

The reserve provides an excellent variety of stream features including meanders, shingle beds, sandy banks and shores, backwaters and steep heavily vegetated earth banks. The most widely represented flora are butterbur, cow parsley, lesser burdock, hedge woundwort, garlic mustard and herb robert.

The beck is fringed by good strips of deciduous woodland containing areas of beneficial fallen and dead timber. Tree species bordering the beck include hawthorn, ash, oak, beech, lime and crack willow.

This rich and varied combination of habitat supports most common woodland and farmland birds and observant visitors may encounter species such as great spotted woodpecker and sparrowhawk. Small mammals include common shrew, water shrew, field mouse, field vole, hedgehog, weasel, and various species of bats including pipistrelle, natterer's and daubenton's.

