

## Cassiobury Park

Discover, in a corner of Cassiobury Park, a wildlife haven close to the heart of a bustling town.



The wet habitats found on the reserve were once shallow watercress beds with a gravel base, fed with water from the river through a series of ditches.

These have developed into marshland and open pools, surrounded by wet woodland of alder and willow, some of which is periodically [coppiced](#). This provides valuable cover and nesting sites for birds. There are also areas of grassland where birds such as goldfinches and greenfinches feed on the seed heads of thistles and teasels. Water rail, lesser spotted woodpeckers and siskins are typical birds here.

The lagoons and ditches are particularly rich in aquatic life with many different [invertebrates](#), frogs and small fish such as minnows. Bullhead fish are found in the clear gravelly stretches of water, often under large pebbles.

In summer the reserve is full of luxuriant growth when the purple loosestrife is bright with flowers. Blue water forget-me-not and brooklime catch the eye closer to the water and there are also pink expanses of great hairy willow herb and a scattering of meadowsweet.

The Trust works with the owner, Watford Borough Council.

### Volunteer at Cassiobury

Volunteer work parties take place at Cassiobury Park Local Nature Reserve on the third Saturday of the month at 10:00am -1:00pm. For more information contact Robert Hopkins on 01727 858901.

An additional work party takes place on the Tuesday before the third Saturday. Contact the Trust for more information.

- [Get driving directions](#)
- [Find nearby public transport](#)

### How to Get Here

#### Location

Watford

#### Directions

Take the the A412 Watford to Rickmansworth road for 1 mile. Turn right into Gade Avenue before the first major roundabout. Free car park is situated just inside the park gates at the end of the avenue. On road parking available near Langley Way entrance. See [www.cassioburypark.info](http://www.cassioburypark.info)

#### Public Transport Links

Bus: Langley Way (T2, 500): Swiss Avenue (352, W30). Rail: Watford (Metropolitan Line) 10 minute walk

#### Walking Links

30 minute walk from Watford town centre. Grand Union Canal towpath; Ebury Way (National Cycle Network 6/61)

#### Map Reference

TQ 089972

## Visitor Guide

### Size

24.6 hectares (60.8 acres).

### Access to site

From Gade Avenue car park or Langley Way

### Access around site

Mixed paths, some very wet in winter but there is a circular walk on smooth surfaced paths accessible all year round.

### Walking time

1 hour

### Advice on what to wear/bring

Good walking shoes recommended

### Map of site (if available)