

Nature notes

On **Inkberrow Millennium Green** you can enjoy a variety of habitats. There are excellent views from the top of the bank at the Millennium seat.

Geology - the underlying rocks are Arden Sandstone on the slopes and Keuper Marl lower down. **Soils** are loams and clays.

The grassland on the banks is a typical remnant of the Mid-Worcestershire flower rich meadow. It includes knapweed, lady's bedstraw, bird's foot trefoil, salad burnet, cowslip, scabious, selfheal and meadow vetchling. The first field is cut for hay and the second is grazed by sheep.

Around **the ponds** yellow flag iris and marsh marigolds stand out and in the **wet flush** areas blue brooklime and watercress can be seen in summer.

The **hedges** are mostly hawthorn with some large ash trees. The hedge between the moat and the road has 8 species including hazel and field maple; it is the oldest hedge on the site. A mixed hedge with 10 local native species has been planted on west edge of the first field.

Birds: Over 30 species have been recorded, including many common garden birds, buzzards, kestrels, ravens and sparrow hawks. Mallards and moorhens nest on the island. Green woodpeckers feed on ants from the large anthills on the grassy slopes. There are nest boxes situated throughout the Green.

Mammals: Squirrels are regularly seen around the moat; there are many rabbits and field voles about, and fox, badger and even deer are sometimes seen.

Butterflies: About 20 species have been recorded including the usual garden species such as peacocks, red admirals, blues and commas but perhaps the best of all are the marbled whites.

Dog walkers please keep your dog under control and carry a bag to clear up any mess.

Website: www.inkberrowmilgreen.co.uk

History

The moat and fishponds are of mediaeval origin as is the ridge and furrow, formed by ploughing, (see the interpretation board by the pond).

The 1840 Tithe Map shows that the first field was then two fields; the part above the moat was described as 'Hill' and the area above and beyond the second pond as 'Brick Kiln Piece' – probably where a temporary kiln was set up to make bricks for local use.

The second field was named 'The Dells' in the Tithe award and later known as 'The Dingles' – both terms meaning deep hollows. On the Inclosure Award of 1817 this field was still part of the Open Field called 'Churchway Field'. The 'Hill' is described as 'the Close including the walk and ponds' in 1817 and was part of the old vicarage grounds.



The Millennium Green was created using funds from Inkberrow Parish Council and the National Lottery. It was opened officially in June 2000 and is for quiet enjoyment by visitors and managed to sustain, restore and enhance a variety of habitats with ecological and social benefit for the Inkberrow Community.

It has been designated a Special Wildlife Site and is in Higher Level Stewardship administered by Natural England. Part of the site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

The Green is administered by the Inkberrow Millennium Green Trust (Charity No. 1075736) and most conservation work is done by volunteers. For further information contact the Chairman Tim Patrickson (01386 792014).

If you would like to join our Sunday morning work parties please contact Wendy Johnson (792094). If you can help with recording plants or animals please contact Gareth Thomas (792082).

A WALK AROUND

Inkberrow Millennium Green



- MEDIAEVAL MOAT & FISH PONDS
- RIDGE AND FURROW
- WILD FLOWER GRASSLAND
- RICH & VARIED WILDLIFE
- DISABLED ACCESS
- SEATS AND PICNIC TABLES
- BOARD WALKS



Grassy slopes have a rich flora characteristic of old meadows. There are many meadow ant mounds.

Sheep grazing keeps the grass short to the advantage of many smaller flowers.

Rabbits also help keep the grass short, there are many burrows beneath the scrub areas.



Brambles provide food and shelter for wildlife.

Timber piles left to decay provide good habitat for small mammals, birds, insects and fungi. Please do not remove wood from the Green.

Nettles are a food plant for caterpillars of some butterflies, especially peacock, tortoiseshell and red admiral.

Nest boxes can be seen throughout the Green.

Ridge and furrow are parallel humps and troughs resulting from strip ploughing with teams of oxen in the mediaeval open fields.



Millennium seat. Sit for a while and admire the view from this vantage point.

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|--|----------------------|--|-----------------|
| | Wetland area | | Seats |
| | Interpretation board | | Ponds & moat |
| | Paths & tracks | | Copse |
| | Gates | | Minor streams |
| | Moat boardwalk | | Millennium seat |
| | Ridge & Furrow | | |



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