

The Gardenway route passes through or close to a wide variety of urban spaces, including: neighbourhood parks and green spaces, road corridors, historic parkland, small wooded areas, allotment sites and private gardens. All play a part in attracting wildlife and enabling species to thrive - even that untidy patch of nettles on disturbed ground.

Trees, bushes and hedgerows provide vital food and nest sites for many familiar garden birds. Amazing migratory Swifts might choose to move into your house and take up residence under the eaves or in a loft spaces to breed and raise their young before their return to Africa before the winter.

Wildflowers and other flora provide important nectar sources for pollinators such as bees, butterflies and other invertebrates, while the compost heap at the allotment or the bottom of your garden may host a wormery, hibernating hedgehog or perhaps a newt seeking warmth for survival in freezing temperatures.



Typical urban landscape along the Gardenway



1. Wood Mouse



2. Hedgehog



3. Robin



4. House Sparrow



5. Blue Tit



6. Blackbird



7. Honey Bee



8. Garden Bumblebee



9. Black Garden Ant



10. Peacock Butterfly



11. Red Admiral Butterfly



12. Damp Meadow



13. Mixed Woodland



14. Willow



15. Field Maple



16. Guelder Rose

Aylesbury's urban edge is often close to a patchwork of fields characterised by arable farming, pasture, and other grasslands structured by a network of hedgerows and ditches, which support biodiversity and habitat connections. The water loving native black poplar is an important tree in this landscape and thrives in hedgerows, alongside ditches, and other watercourses. Native ash trees are often present and frequently seen on higher, drier ground.

Many bird species are associated with the farming and grassland landscape including: Yellow wagtail, Turtle Dove, Tree Sparrow, Redshank, Lapwing, Grey partridge, Curlew and Corn Bunting, alongside Kestrel, Buzzard, Red Kite and Barn Owl.

Mammals play an important part in the ecosystem as both predator and prey. You might be lucky enough to spot hare, badgers and even roe or fallow deer.



Typical arable landscape along the Gardenway



1. Red Fox



2. European Badger



3. Brown Hare



4. Harvest Mouse



5. Brown Long-Eared Bat



6. Daubenton's Bat



7. Yellow Wagtail



8. Corn Bunting



9. Yellow Hammer



10. Red Kite



11. Barn Owl



12. Golden Clover



13. Hawthorn



14. Blackthorn



15. Ash



16. Black Poplar

Aylesbury is rich in freshwater aquatic and wetland habitat - from the many streams that feed the River Thames to the ditches, lakes and ponds associated with field drainage, flood risk alleviation and leisure uses, and of course the Grand Union Canal.

This sheet shows just some of the many species associated with these habitats. Look out for fish such as Roach and Chub hiding under fallen branches, or the tiny amphibious Smooth and Great Crested Newts. Water is a magnet for a great variety of birds including Lapwing which thrive near damp grassland and flood pools with their supply of invertebrates.

Did you know that bats use water corridors as travel 'superhighways' as well as a hunting ground? And that frogs can breathe through their skin?



Typical aquatic landscape along the Gardenway



1. Common Frog



2. Grass Snake



3. Smooth Newt



4. Slow Worm



5. Lapwing



6. Grey Heron



7. Kingfisher



8. Moorhen



9. Otter



10. White Clawed Crayfish



11. Pond Skater



12. Common Blue Damselfly



13. Mayfly



14. Purple Loosestrife



15. Yellow Flag Iris



16. Flowering Rush

Image credits:  
Aquatic Landscape - UP  
1. Richard Bartz  
2. Benny Trapp  
3. LAnevrisme  
8. George Hodan  
9. Bernard Landgraf  
11. Cory  
12. Andreas Trepte  
13. Richard Bartz  
14. Ivar Leidus  
15. Katrin Wicker  
16. Ivar Leidus