



*Basingstoke
and Deane*



EASTROP PARK



The History of Eastrop Park

Eastrop dates back to Roman times, when this lush valley would have been used to grow crops, graze cattle and water horses.

It was during the Saxon times, that the area was named after a local tribe called 'Basinga' and the land running along the Loddon Valley was given the name Eastrop (Easthorp) the eastern settlement.

In AD945, King Edmund the Elder discovered these rich pastures and water meadows and gave them to Alfred of Marlborough. Here, Alfred set about building a Manor House, a chapel, buildings and a farm in the eastfields, the site where Eastrop roundabout, Eastrop Lane, Goat Lane, the Danes and Timberlake Road stands now.

Three mills were situated along the Loddon Valley.

It is thought that one once stood where the Basing View footbridge in Eastrop Park is now. Another mill was at the north end of Eastrop Lane and the third was a silk mill built at the site of Victory roundabout.

In 1794, the Basingstoke Canal was built to provide a more economical means of transporting agricultural goods from Hampshire into London and to bring back coal and fertiliser. Starting at the Wharf, the site of the bus station, the canal flowed through Coopers meadow, via Eastrop and joined the Wey Navigation Canal at Byfleet.



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There was a stone bridge at Eastrop Lane, which was recommended as a good spot for boating and fishing for roach and perch and during hard winters, ice skaters could skate from Eastrop to Broadwater, Basing.

It was during the early 20th century that the canal began to decline as roads and rail links improved. In 1920, the roof of the Greywell Tunnel collapsed and eventually the canal became a desolate weedy stretch of green water. The canal was in filled during the 1930's and remains closed as far as Up Nately.

A few willow trees that grew beside the canal still remain today and can be spotted along Eastrop Way near the allotment site. The old canal boundary hedge continues to run along the southern edge of Eastrop Park.

Eastrop Park was opened in 1972 and was welcomed by the public as an additional area of open space with its special water features and leisure facilities. Today, Eastrop is one of Basingstoke's premier parks, it boasts huge popularity and has retained its 'Green Flag' award for the past four years.

In 2003 the Eastrop Link opened at the western entrance to complement both the park and the new Festival Place development with public artwork and a 12 jet 'dry plaza' water feature.

The Park Rangers, the Street Care Team and Basingstoke volunteers work hard to continually improve the quality of Eastrop Park and to provide an attractive outdoor venue for popular events such as the 'Eastrop Family Fun Day', summer band concerts and weekly health walks.

Eastrop park is a popular venue for a variety of leisure activities to suit everyone and provides a relaxed setting for a gentle stroll, a lunchtime picnic or a day out with the family.

This award-winning park is within easy walking distance of Basingstoke town centre via the Eastrop Link and offers a children's paddling pool, crazy golf, paddleboats and rowing boats for hire, and a café throughout the summer months.

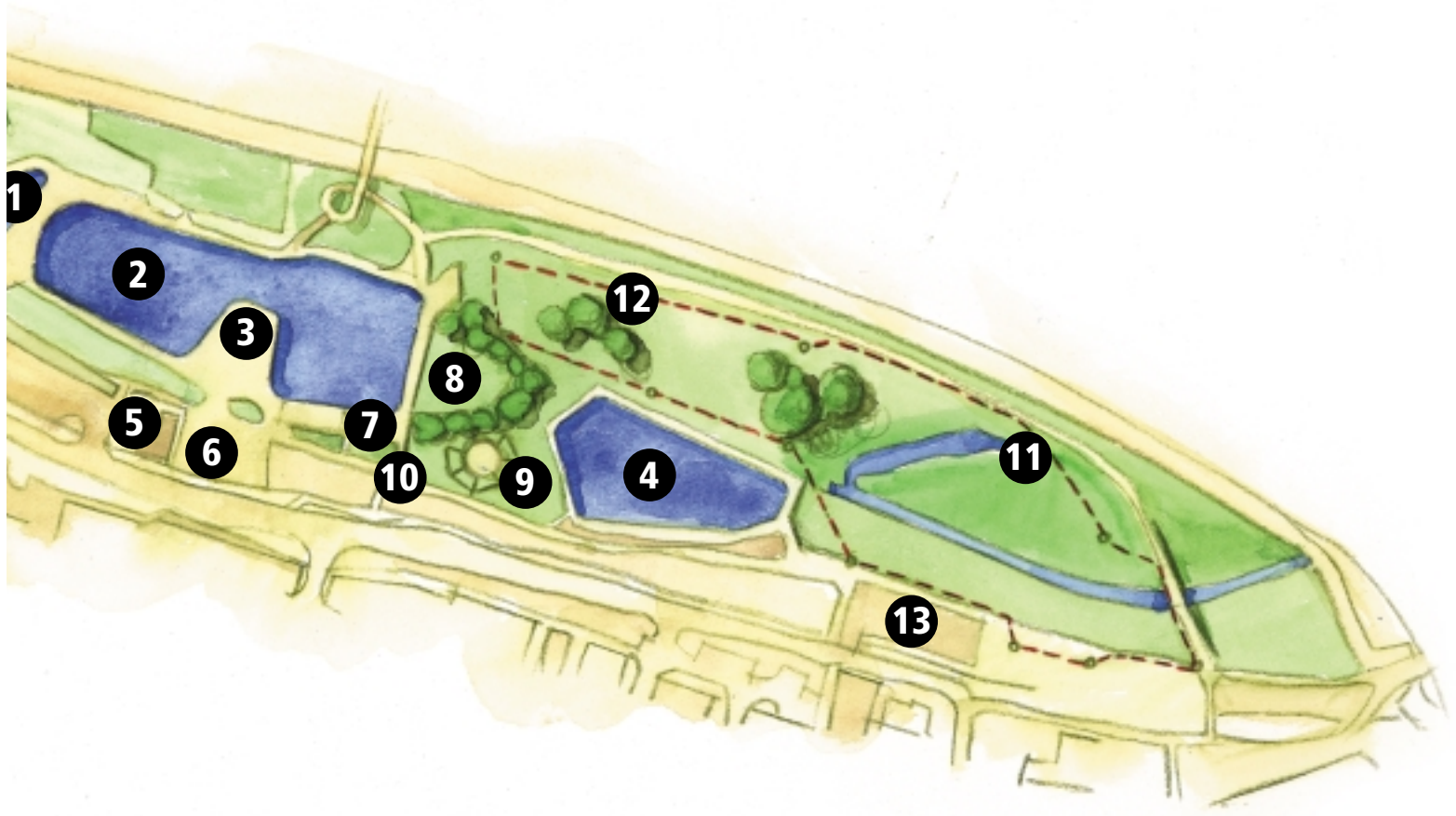
You can enjoy the children's play area, climbing play web, herbaceous borders, wildlife pond and the natural landscape surrounding the River Loddon all year round.



EASTROP PARK

1. Paddling Pool
2. Boating Lake
3. Performance Canopy
4. Model Boating Lake
5. Toilets
6. Children's Play Area
7. Boathouse Café
8. Crazy Golf
9. Climbing Web
10. Tree Trail
11. Balancing Pond
12. Trim Trail
13. Free Car Parks





Facilities:

Boating Lake

Splash out in a paddleboat or rowing boat, available for hire throughout the spring and summertime.

Model Boating Lake

The Basingstoke Model Boat Club meet regularly at weekends.

Paddling Pool

A place for children to chill out on a hot day, while the adults relax on the grass.

Children's Play Area

An enclosed area, where younger children can safely swing, slide and run off excess energy!

Climbing Web

Scramble your way up the web and admire the view from the top!



EASTROP PARK

Crazy Golf

Golf balls and putters are available for hire from the Boathouse Café.

Trim Trail

Stop off at each apparatus to increase your workout as you jog your way round the park!



Tree Trail

Designed by the Park Rangers and Basingstoke Tree Wardens. Pick up a Tree Trail leaflet and follow the route of wooden markers to enjoy the beauty of Eastrop's trees as you walk around the park.

Performance Canopy

A contemporary version of the traditional bandstand. Entertainment such as puppet shows and Sunday afternoon band concerts are held under the canopy during the summer.

Features

Eastrop Park boasts a beautiful display of ornamental flowerbeds and the River Loddon meanders between a variety of historic trees.

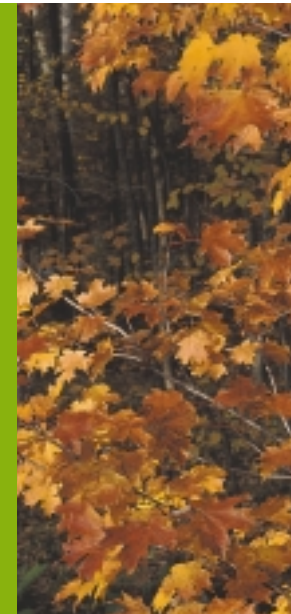
Despite its urban location, the park is home to a diversity of wildlife, including Pipstrelle and Serotine bats.

The balancing pond nestles between the shady Willows of the River Loddon and the avenue of Horse Chestnut Trees at the eastern end. It is a rich habitat for water-loving plants, such as yellow iris, water mint and reed mace.

Dragonflies, damselflies and kingfishers are frequently spotted darting between the still waters of the pond and the steady flow of the River Loddon in the hunt for food.

The park is the starting point of the Basingstoke Canal Heritage Footpath, which follows the historic route of the old canal to Basing House.

During the summer, there is regular entertainment, including small scale theatre productions, live music and the annual Eastrop Family Fun Day. The very popular Health Walks keep going throughout the year, starting from the Boathouse every Monday morning at 11.00am.



Boathouse Café

Open throughout the spring and summer months for drinks, snacks and ice creams.

Toilets

These public toilets have wheelchair access and nappy changing facilities for mums and dads.



Free Car Parks

Both car parks have disabled spaces and are open to park visitors from 10.00am until dusk.

Eastrop Link

A safe pedestrian and cycle route into the park at its western entrance. Enhanced with a 12 jet 'dry plaza', seating and public artwork.



EASTROP PARK

Opening times of the Café, Boating Lake and Crazy Golf

Easter and Summer school holidays
April – Weekends only
May to August – Everyday
September – Weekends only
October to March – Closed season

11.00am - 5.30pm weather permitting
Last boat ride - **5.10pm** weather permitting



The Boating Lake is for the use of boats
on hire from the Boathouse only.

For your health and safety, swimming or paddling
in the lakes and the exercising of dogs in the
lakes,
paddling pool or water features is prohibited.

Both car parks open from **10.00am**,
dusk for park visitors only.





Dogs in Parks

When taking your dog for a walk in any of our parks please be a responsible dog owner.

- Use a Poop-scoop to clean up after your dog
- Dispose of the Poop-scoop in one of the Dog Waste Bins provided in all our parks
- Do not allow your dog to foul play areas

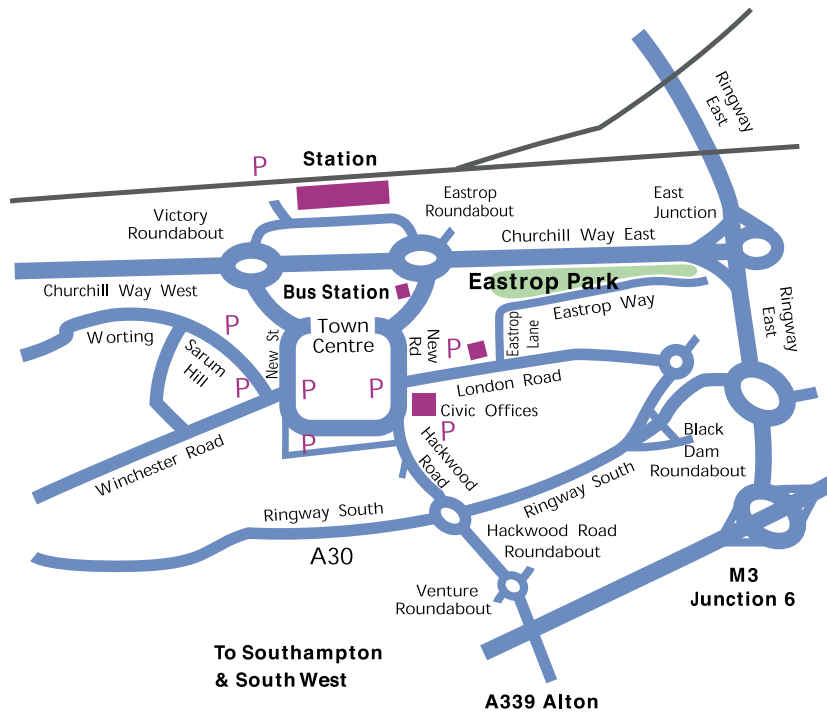


Eastrop Park

Winner of The
Green Flag Award



EASTROP PARK



How to get here On foot

Eastrop Park is a 5-minute walk from Festival Place. The new Eastrop Link provides a safe pedestrian route into the park and has enhanced the park's western entrance with a 12 jet 'dry plaza' water feature.

By bicycle

There is a direct cycle route link connecting Festival Place with Eastrop Park with a single pedestrian and cyclist crossing point to provide a safe entrance into the park.

By car

Follow the signs from Eastrop roundabout, to London Road and down Eastrop Lane. There are two small car parks with disabled parking spaces.

Park Ranger Service

The Park Ranger's work to encourage greater use of the Borough's Parks and Open Spaces through health, education and leisure. They organise a variety of events throughout the year to promote Basingstoke's woodlands and parks to people of all ages & abilities.

The Park Ranger's also work closely with local schools and local volunteer groups to offer people the opportunity to explore wildlife and everyday nature on their doorstep. Some of the regular organised events include: Health Walks, Conservation Tasks, Family Fun Days and Adult Craft Workshops.





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