

USEFUL INFORMATION

FOOTPATH INFORMATION

A walk around the Lake following the surfaced path should take 20-30 minutes and there are also plenty of grassy paths allowing visitors to explore further. All paths are shared by pedestrians and cyclists and visitors are asked to be considerate towards other users. Dogs are welcome when their owners keep them under control and pick up any mess. The Gipping Valley Footpath - linking Stowmarket and Ipswich - passes through the site and a number of other walks into the wider countryside can be started from here. Information on several of these walks can be found in the Information Room.

MODEL BOATING

Allowed by permit only. Day tickets can be purchased from the Council Offices or why not join the Gipping Valley Model Boat Club who hold weekly Club Days at the Lake? Details available from The Club Secretary on **01449 675645**.

ANGLING

Allowed by permit only. The Gipping Valley Angling Club have the fishing rights to the Lake and River. Annual and Day permits are available from Bosmere Tackle in Needham Market. Phone **01449 721808** for details.

WATER SAFETY

Swimming and paddling are strictly forbidden in the Lake and River. The water can be very cold and the Lake edges drop away quickly into deep water. Lifebuoys are found around the Lake and by the river.



GENERAL SAFETY

Countryside staff are present on site on most days to advise and help visitors and a contact mobile number is displayed in the Information Room.

LITTER

There are no litter bins on site and visitors are asked to take their waste home for recycling. Dog bins are present for dog waste.

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

The Countryside Team organises a number of events for families and children throughout the year. These are advertised in the Annual Events Programme available from the Information Room.

SCHOOL VISITS

Many schools visit Needham Lake for environmental studies. If you would like information on opportunities for schools please contact the Discovery Project Officer on **01449 724632**.

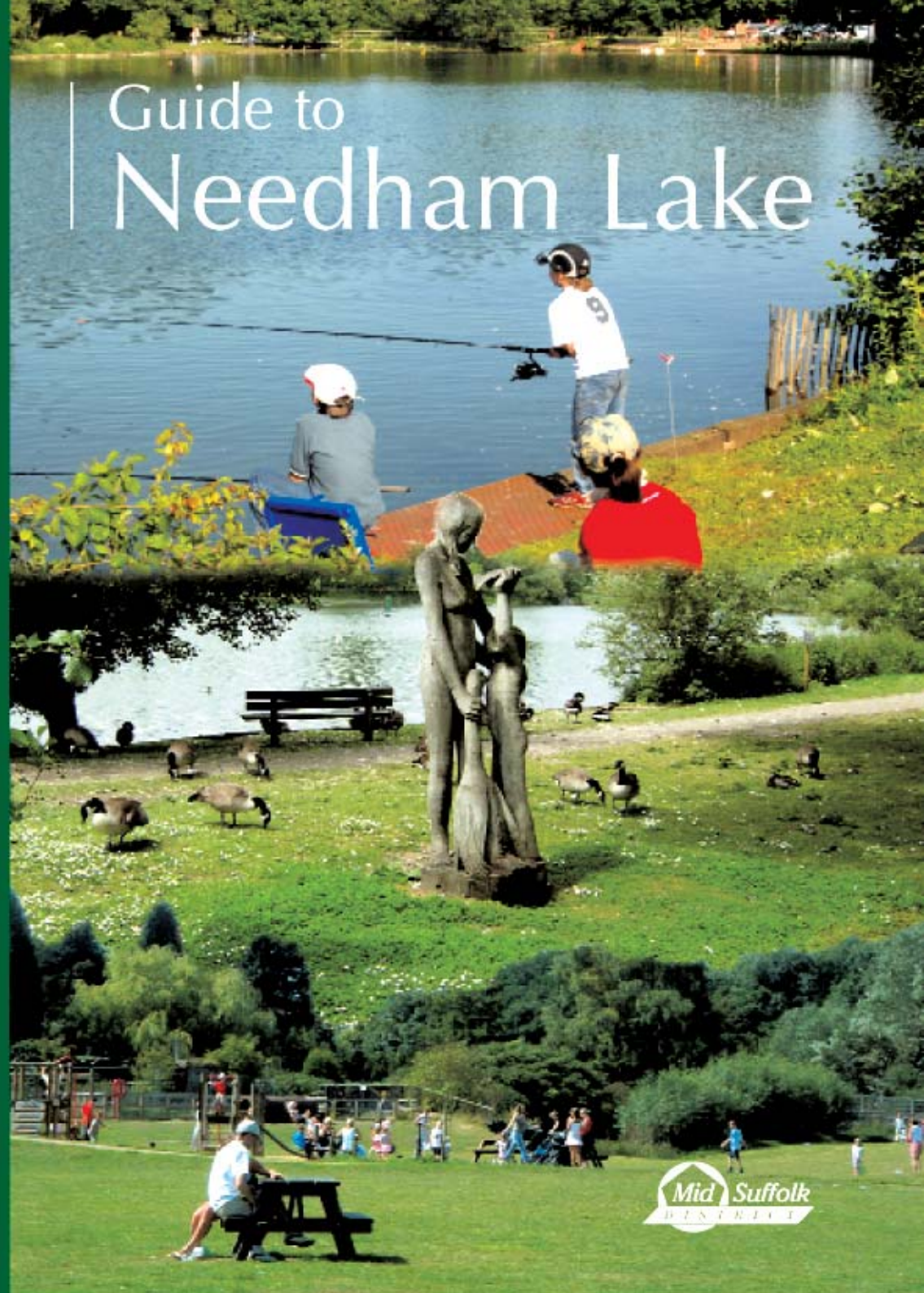
NEEDHAM MARKET

Why not take a stroll around the historic town? The Needham Market Town Trail leaflet is available from the Information Room.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Needham Lake can be easily reached by public transport. A frequent bus service runs between Ipswich and Stowmarket and Needham Market Railway Station is nearby. Contact **08457 484950** for details on railway timetables and **0871 200 22 33** for local bus routes and timetables.

For further information about Needham Lake contact the Countryside Team on **01449 724639 / 640**



Guide to Needham Lake



Site Map



① KINGS MEADOW

This small woodland is home to many small birds that may be seen feeding in the trees. Woodpeckers can be heard drumming on the dead branches in Spring.



② STATION FIELD

In the Summer the paddocks are grazed and the meadows uncut to create a varied grassland. The long grass is full of grasshoppers and other insects whilst many wild flowers can be found. Look out for Bee and Pyramidal Orchids alongside the paths.



③ WILDLIFE ISLANDS

This part of the lake was created in 1986 as a refuge for nesting birds. Mute Swan, Coot and Great Crested Grebe now nest amongst the islands. Dragonflies are seen hunting over the water in Summer.

④ RIVERSIDE WALK

The path alongside the river is a good place to look for Kingfisher on quiet days. You can cross the river on Crown Street and return along the other side.



⑤ NEEDHAM LAKE

The Lake is an old gravel pit created in the 1970s and now supports many ducks and other water birds. An aerator in the middle of the Lake helps to keep the water clear.



⑥ MILL MEADOW

The footbridge is a great place to look for fish in the river below. Mill Meadow is a popular family picnic area.

