

History

Norton Common used to be arable and grazing land. You can see evidence of cultivation in the undulations seen on much of the site. Known as 'ridge and furrow', they were produced by ploughing strips of open fields in the same direction each year. This was the usual way of farming until the C18th, when the fields were divided and 'enclosed' with hedges.

After this, the commoners of Norton were granted rights to graze cattle on the Common and an amazing variety of wildlife thrived alongside. However, grazing declined and by the end of the C19th bushes covered many areas and some of the wildlife was lost.



100 metres (approx.)

In 1903 the Common was integrated into the design of the Garden City and paths were opened up through the scrub. The lido and other facilities were added from the 1930s. A surprising amount of wildlife can still be found on Norton Common and in 2006 it was designated as a Local Nature Reserve.

Key

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|--|---|--|-----------------------|
| | Cycle path (part of National Cycle Network) | | Car park |
| | Other surfaced paths | | Disabled parking |
| | Unsurfaced paths (may be muddy at times) | | Interpretation panels |
| | | | Benches |
| | | | Wheelchair access |

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