Crane Park Island Detectives

Over 200 years ago Crane Park Island was part of a Gunpowder Mill.

Now it is a London Wildlife Trust nature reserve, home to many birds, animals and plants.

Supported by the Community Fund and Civic Pride Fund from Richmond Council.

12 Woodland
This woodland is home to many types of tree. Dark green ivy grows on many of the trees. It makes a good nesting place for small birds like the wren. Ivy doesn’t lose its leaves in winter.

Q What do we call this type of woody plant?
A E

13 Some people say that the top was blown off this tree in the Second World War and then the branches grew again.

Q What is the name of the tree?
A H C T

14 Look down at the river and see if you can see any fish swim by. Lots of work has been done in the river to make it a better place for fish to live and breed.

Q Can you count how many fish you can see?
A

1 The Shot Tower
They used to make lead shot here, which was used for firing weapons.

Q How many steps do you think there are to the top of the tower?
A

2 Meadow
Birds, insects and small mammals make their homes here. They like the long grass.

Q What might the bee be doing as it buzzes around the flowers?
A

3 Millrace
The big water wheel was used for grinding the ingredients of gunpowder. It was driven by the power of the river.

Q Can you name one of the ingredients of gunpowder? (clue: look on the big millstones at the entrance to the island)
A S

Q

S

Ch
Reedbed
This is a good home for birds, insects and amphibians. There is an important tree growing at the side of the reedbed. Its wood is used for making baskets and other useful things.

Q: Do you know what it is called?
A: W tree

The pond
This is home to two different types of frog. The marsh frog and the common frog.

Q: Can you name two things a frog might eat?
A: A A

You can see the river from here. If you are lucky you might see fish swimming by.

Q: What is the name of the bird who is also looking for fish?
A: H

River
The river is home to lots of fish and other creatures that live under the water.

Q: When we see lots of creatures do you think it tells us that the river is clean?
A: YES □ (clue: A clean river is full of oxygen. Plants help give oxygen to the river)

Q: What is the name of this little bird?
A: R

Meadow
The hedge around the meadow makes a great home for birds to nest.

Q: What is the name of this little bird?
A: R

Glade
The old brick structures were once part of the gunpowder mill. Now they are home to many different wild plants.

Q: How many different colour flowers can you see?
A: 

Former Millpond
There was once a big pool of water here. It was used to drive the mill machinery for the gunpowder mills. Now it a great home for wildlife.

Q: What is this bird called and what is it on the look out for?
A: K f