

Mesopotamia

The land between two rivers fed the seeds
of our civilisation. Oxford's own
local Mesopotamia feeds,
protects and nurtures natural beauty – lone
swans, snowdrops by the river's edge, birdsong,
a weeping willow mirrored in the stream –
just weeds and woods and water. Stroll along
the path that links the Parks at one extreme
(with memories of Parsons Pleasure by
the weir) to Magdalen's Fellows Garden, where
flowers abound and notices deny
entry. Enjoy the views, the peace, the air.
Though this rare spot of *rus in urbe* may
seem safe, the City's never far away.

John Elinger