

## Blashford Lakes at a glance

Blashford Lakes Nature Reserve is managed by Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. The reserve consists of a series of flooded former gravel pits, which are now used for drinking water storage and nature conservation. The lakes are surrounded by woodland and attract thousands of wildfowl and many woodland birds. Wildlife watching is easy with six accessible bird hides and a number of 'viewing screens' around the site.

**Open:** 9am-4.30pm daily (car parks and hides locked at other times).

All group visits must be booked in advance.

**Wildlife:** Wetland and woodland birds and dragonflies

**Where:** 2 miles north of Ringwood, east of the A338 – follow sign to Moyles Court and take first left into car park.

**Access:** Good - surfaced tracks and ramped access to hides. Mobility scooters available.

**Toilets:** Yes - at the Centre.

**Bus:** X3 "Wilts & Dorset"; half-hourly service Bournemouth-Salisbury

**Cost:** Suggested donation £3-5 per person.

**Please note:** Dog walking, cycling and swimming are not permitted on this nature reserve.

For the latest news and wildlife sightings from Blashford Lakes, please follow our blog at:

**[blashfordlakes.wordpress.com](http://blashfordlakes.wordpress.com)**

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Great crested grebes © Robert Chapman

## Blashford Lakes Nature Reserve

These tranquil lakes, surrounded by woodland, reedbed and grassland, are a great place for watching and learning about wildlife, or just enjoying a gentle walk.

### Wildlife

Sitting in any one of our six hides is a great way to watch wildlife, particularly birds. Visit the woodland hide to enjoy close up views of many woodland birds, including great spotted woodpecker and nuthatch. The other hides are good places to see grey heron, great crested grebe and coot.

The lakes support thousands of over-wintering wildfowl, including goldeneye and goosander. Bittern are frequently seen in winter, as are large numbers of woodland birds including brambling, redpoll and siskin. During the summer kingfishers nest on the reserve and 25 species of dragonfly can be found.

## If you enjoyed your visit to Blashford Lakes you may like to...

- **Make a donation** – your support will help us to improve the nature reserve for wildlife and people. Donations of any amount are always welcome.
- **Become a volunteer** – help the Wildlife Trust at Blashford Lakes or elsewhere. You can help look after our nature reserves, assist with school visits or carry out wildlife surveys.
- **Become a Wildlife Trust member or supporter** – your regular donations will help us to secure a better future for wildlife.



**Hampshire &  
Isle of Wight**  
Wildlife Trust

#### Blashford Lakes Nature Reserve

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The Blashford Project is a partnership between:



**[www.hiwwt.org.uk](http://www.hiwwt.org.uk)**



Lbsley Water © Steve Maskell

### History

The landscape of the reserve has changed dramatically - in less than 100 years it has been farmland, a WWII airbase, motor racing circuit, sand and gravel pits and today is an important nature reserve and water reservoir. Look for evidence of the past as you explore.

### Walks and Access

Five miles of flat and waymarked surfaced paths around the reserve link in to the surrounding public footpath network. If you have a large pushchair or wheelchair you may need a RADAR key to by-pass the kissing gates – available from the Education Centre by arrangement.



Blashford Trampers © Peter Hutchings

Two all-terrain and easy to use "Tramper" mobility scooters are available for our visitors to book for a donation.

## Blashford Lakes Nature Reserve



**Open daily  
9am-4.30pm**

Entry by  
donation

Front cover image: Kingfisher © Andy Browne  
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Protecting wildlife, inspiring people



Playday © Jim Day

### The Education Centre

Visitors are welcome to visit the Centre to find out more about the nature reserve, the Blashford Lakes Project Partnership, or simply to use the toilets.

Each year thousands of visitors from schools, youth clubs and adult groups enjoy hands-on activities such as bird watching walks, pond dipping and campfire cooking. Please contact us for more information.

### Guided Walks and Events

Taking part in one of our regular guided walks or family wildlife discovery days is a fantastic way to meet people and learn more about wildlife. Pick up a Blashford Lakes What's On? leaflet or visit our website: **[www.hiwwt.org.uk/whats-on](http://www.hiwwt.org.uk/whats-on)**

If you are planning a self-guided group visit to the reserve please book your visit in advance at the Education Centre.

For more information on our events, group visits or to book a mobility scooter please call **01425 472760** or e-mail **[BlashfordLakes@hiwwt.org.uk](mailto:BlashfordLakes@hiwwt.org.uk)**





# Blashford Lakes Nature Reserve

## Getting Around

The main car park for the nature reserve is on the north side of Ellingham Drive located by the Tern Hide. The Education Centre and toilets are 400m from the nature reserve car park, where there is allocated disabled parking.

**Both car parks are open from 9am to 4.30pm daily.**

**Dog walking, cycling and swimming are not permitted on this nature reserve.**



The Blashford Project is a partnership between Bournemouth Water, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, New Forest District Council and Wessex Water.

