



Lapwing at Blashford Lakes © Ian Cameron-Reid  
Pond Dipping at Blashford Lakes © Rex Waygood

## Blashford Lakes at a glance

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.

**Opening times:** 9am - 4.30pm every day, except Christmas Day.

**Wildlife:** Wetland and woodland birds and dragonflies. Six bird hides.

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

**Getting here:** BH24 3PJ to Ellingham Drive.

**What3Words:** ///starfish.sideburns.admiringly  
**Grid Ref:** SU 151 083

**Bus stop:** Ellingham Cross (1/3 mile).  
X3 Salisbury Reds; half-hourly service  
Bournemouth - Salisbury

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

**Paths:** 8km of surfaced waymarked trails.  
Mobility scooters for hire.

**Seating:** Benches at regular intervals around the reserve.

Please note dog walking, cycling, fishing and swimming are not permitted on this nature reserve.

### Discover your wild life

If you'd like to continue your wild adventure, find out more about our incredible wildlife and brilliant events here and at our other nature reserves, visit: [hiwwt.org.uk](http://hiwwt.org.uk) or scan the QR.



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

**Become a Wildlife Trust member or supporter** - your regular donations will help us to secure a better future for wildlife.

**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.



### Blashford Lakes Nature Reserve

Ellingham Drive, Ringwood, Hampshire BH24 3PJ  
014 25 472760  
[BlashfordLakes@hiwwt.org.uk](mailto:BlashfordLakes@hiwwt.org.uk)

The Blashford Project is a partnership between:



We would also like to thank our members and the local community for their on-going support.

### Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

Beechcroft House, Vicarage Lane, Curdridge  
Hampshire SO32 2DP

01489 774 400 | [feedback@hiwwt.org.uk](mailto:feedback@hiwwt.org.uk) | [hiwwt.org.uk](http://hiwwt.org.uk)

Registered Charity Number 201081

Cover image: Snipe at Blashford Lakes © Ian Cameron-Reid



Hampshire & Isle of Wight  
Wildlife Trust



## Blashford Lakes Nature Reserve

Open from 9am - 4.30pm  
Donations welcome



## 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.

## 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.

## 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.



**KEY**

	Reserve boundary		Accessible toilet & baby change facility
	Surfaced path		Information point
	Wild Walk		Viewing hide
	Public footpaths		Parking
	Avon Valley long distance footpath		Bus stop
			Pub
			Viewing screen
			Slopes of more than 8%
			Water skiing area
			Sailing area

300 m  
500 ft  
Ordnance Survey licence no. 100015622

Seating at regular intervals of no more than 200m

### Walking times and distances

Education Centre to Woodland Hide:	Approx 2 mins	150m
Education Centre to Ivy South Hide:	Approx 4 mins	340m
Education Centre to Ivy North Hide:	Approx 5 mins	360m
Education Centre to Tern Hide:	Approx 11 mins	560m
Education Centre to Goosander Hide:	Approx 20 mins	1000m
Education Centre to Lapwing Hide:	Approx 40 mins	1450m

### Wild Walk

Walking time (no stops): 20 min  
With stops (total recommended trail time): 1 – 1 ½ hours  
Distance: 1.4 km

### Time to nearest pub:

**The Alice Lisle, Rockford:** 1 mile (1.6km), 3 minute drive.  
Family-friendly pub. Can be reached on foot, approx. 25 minutes from the Education Centre using footpaths.

## 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.

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

## 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. Visit our website: [hiwwt.org.uk/events](http://hiwwt.org.uk/events)

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)

