

Bronze Age Testwood Lakes

During construction of Testwood Lakes, Wessex Archaeology discovered fascinating evidence of early society including part of the earliest bridge discovered in England. It dates to the Middle Bronze Age (around 1500BC) and was found where Testwood Lake is now. The remains of part of a boat and a short sword blade called a rapier were found at Meadow Lake.

sand martin



How to find us

Exit M27 at Junction 2, take A326 Fawley/Totton road, take the first exit to Totton (A36) and proceed towards Totton. At the first roundabout turn left into Brunel Road. Testwood Lakes is situated 300m down on the left hand side.

For site information in large print phone: **023 8066 7929**
or visit **www.hiwwt.org.uk**

common sandpiper



Testwood Lakes nature reserve is managed by Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust in partnership with Southern Water.

How you can help...

- **Become a Wildlife Trust member** – help us in protecting local wildlife for the future. By joining the Trust you are doing your bit to help local wildlife and help the Trust manage its nature reserves. Membership costs as little as £3.50 a month.
- **Make a donation** – support our work at Testwood Lakes, improving the area for wildlife and people. Donations of any amount are always welcome and can be made at the Centre or online
- **Become a volunteer** – you can help us look after the nature reserve, help with events and other tasks here at Testwood Lakes or other Wildlife Trust sites

For more information on how you can help, places to visit, events and wildlife news visit:
www.hiwwt.org.uk

Front cover image
Great crested grebe © Drumimages



**Hampshire &
Isle of Wight
Wildlife Trust**

Testwood Lakes Nature Reserve

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grey heron



**Hampshire &
Isle of Wight
Wildlife Trust**

Testwood Lakes Nature Reserve



**A hidden haven for wildlife
on the edge of Totton**

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Welcome to Testwood Lakes Nature Reserve

A hidden haven for wildlife amidst the urban fringe of Totton. The reserve is a mixture of open water, grassland and woodland steeped in Bronze Age history. It is a special place that forms part of the Test Valley – a site of international importance for wildlife.

Wildlife

The lakes support hundreds of over-wintering wildfowl and waders and the woodland areas are home to foxes, roe deer and many woodland birds. It is a great place for watching and learning about wildlife or just enjoying a leisurely walk.

Opening times

The car park is open every day between 8am and 4pm during winter and 8am until 5pm during the summer.



broad bodied
chaser



Golden-ringed Dragonfly

© Les Stride

School visit © Les Stride

Viewing Hides

Sitting in one of the two hides overlooking Meadow Lake is a great way to watch wildlife, particularly birds such as grey heron, tufted duck and lapwing. The hides are usually open every day between 10am and 4pm. Both hides have ramps up to the doors.



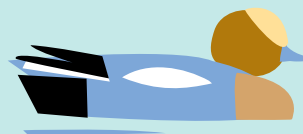
Common
tern

Getting Around

A series of paths provide walks around the Lakes, to the Centre and to the bird hides. All surfaced paths are waymarked - most are relatively flat but there is one steep slope on the north and south side of the main lake. Please note that some of the paths regularly flood during winter. If you have a large buggy or wheelchair you may need to get a RADAR key for the gates – keys are available from the Centre by arrangement.



tufted duck



wigeon

Dogs

We welcome responsible dog walkers to certain parts of the reserve. Please enjoy walks with dogs around both Testwood and Little Testwood Lakes. Dogs are not permitted in sensitive wildlife conservation areas or children's education areas.



Testwood Lakes © Cathy Anning

Testwood Lakes Centre

The Centre is open to the public most weekdays and Sunday afternoons when staffed by volunteers. Visitors are welcome to look around the Centre and toilet facilities are available.

Each year thousands of visitors from schools, youth and adult groups come here to learn about wildlife and wild places. If you would like to bring a group to the Centre or hire the conference room please contact: 023 8066 7929.

Guided Walks and Events

Taking part in one of our regular guided walks or events is a great way to learn more about the site's wildlife. Pick up a Testwood Lakes 'What's On' leaflet from one of the information points or visit our website:

www.hiwwt.org.uk/whats-on

Fishing

Fishing is permitted at Little Testwood Lake. Day permits are available from the Test Valley Angling Club at the newsagents at 41 Rumbridge Street, Totton SO40 9DR tel: 023 8086 2021.



cormorant

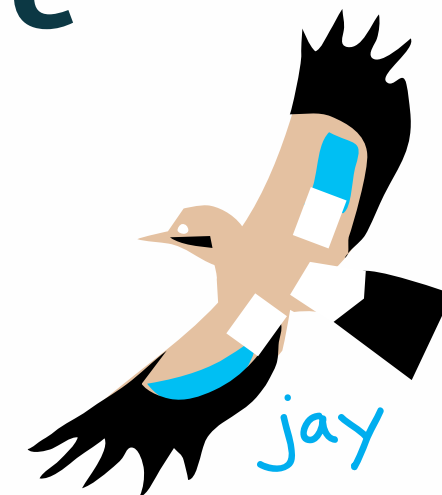
M27 to Ringwood









M27 to Portsmouth

Testwood Lakes Nature Reserve

Getting around

All surfaced paths are waymarked. Most are relatively flat but there is one steep slope on the north and south side of the main lake. From the car park, the Education Centre and toilets are 500m away. Dog walking and cycling are not permitted in the conservation area around Meadow Lake or children's education areas near the Centre.



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|--|---|
|  Education Centre & Toilets |  Surfaced path |
|  Viewing Hide |  Unsurfaced path |
|  Parking |  Testwood Lakes Reserve Boundary |
|  Information Point | |
|  Viewing Screen | |



Main entrance to Testwood Lakes