About Blashford Lakes

The Blashford Lakes Nature Reserve is managed by Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust for the benefit of people and wildlife. In winter Blashford’s flooded gravel pits support thousands of wildfowl such as tufted duck, gadwall and wigeon. In spring a walk through the woodland provides a wildflower spectacle of bluebells and wild daffodils. Summer is the best time to see some of the reserves 25+ species of dragonfly, and mist shrouded lakes; fungi and changing colours signal the arrival of autumn.

- Open: 9am-4.30pm daily.
- Access: Good - surfaced tracks and ramped access to hides.
- Bus: X3 “Wilts & Dorset”; half-hourly service Bournemouth - Salisbury
- Toilets: Yes - at the Education Centre.
- Cost: Please make a donation.
- Dogs: Due to the nature of the site dogs (other than guide dogs) are not permitted.

For reserve updates, wildlife sightings and the “Blashford Blog”: www.hiwwt.org.uk

For more information on the work of Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, please visit our website or call us on 01489 774400.

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www.hiwwt.org.uk

How to Find Us

Blashford Lakes Centre, Ellingham Drove, Ringwood, Hampshire, BH24 3PJ

Tel: 01425 472760
E-mail: BlashfordLakes@hiwwt.org.uk

Two miles north of Ringwood on A338 Ringwood - Salisbury road, take the Moyles Court/Linwood turning at Ellingham Crossroads into Ellingham Drove. After 400 yards, take the first left for the main reserve car park. Reserved parking is available at the Education Centre for disabled visitors and groups participating in organised activities at the centre.

(New Forest OS Map Grid Ref: SU 151 079)

Blashford Lakes
“What’s On?”
January - March 2017

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

Volunteers play an enormously important role in the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust's work at Blashford Lakes:

**Education Volunteers**
Blashford Lakes offers a diverse range of activities for school, youth and adult groups, ranging from bird watching walks, to pond dipping and campfire cooking! If you would like to share your knowledge and enthusiasm for wildlife with others please get in touch…

**Conservation Volunteers**
Conservation and wildlife survey volunteers support our work on the nature reserve throughout the year. Limited opportunities are available for new volunteers – please contact the Reserves Officer for more details.

**Mobility Scooters**
We have two very comfortable and easy to use all terrain “Trampers” available for our visitors to borrow to enhance their enjoyment of the nature reserve. Booking is advised.

Find Out More…
For more information about any of the above, including group visits, Wild Birthday Parties, mobility scooters and volunteering, please contact us: e-mail: blasfordlakes@hiwwt.org.uk tel: 01425 472760

Group Bookings

An exciting, fun, hands on and informative range of activities are available to schools, youth groups and community groups throughout the year.

Activities include pond and river dipping, guided walks, “Forest School” and much, much more!

**Self-guided Groups**
Due to the popularity of the nature reserve all groups, including self-guided groups, are required to book in advance: tel 01425 472760 or e-mail blasfordlakes@hiwwt.org.uk

Wild Birthday Parties

For a birthday to remember, why not join us for a Wild Birthday Party of pond dipping, “minibeasting”, river dipping or den building?
Cost £10 per person (minimum £100).

Scavenger Hunts!
For added fun on your visit why not try one of our FREE seasonal scavenger hunts! Pick up a copy from the Education Centre. Or download your ‘hit list’ from the Blashford Lakes page of our website: www.hiwwt.org.uk.

“Wildlife Watch” is the junior branch of the Wildlife Trust organised by registered volunteers who lead fun activities for children aged 6-12. The award winning Blashford Lakes Wildlife Watch group usually meets at the centre on the second Saturday of each month, 10:30-12:30pm. Activities range from arts and crafts to nest box making and pond dipping to fossil hunting. For further details visit www.hiwwt.org.uk or contact Wildlife Watch David Caals 01202 814743 or e-mail caals.sdzm@talk21.com

Our parent/toddler group meets monthly for fun outdoor play, games and wildlife discovery activities for preschool aged children and their parents or carers. Normally the first Monday of the month, 10.30am-12pm and 1-2.30pm. Suggested donation of £4 per child. Booking essential.

Winter Wonderland January Mon 2nd
Feathered Friends February Mon 6th
March into Spring March Mon 6th

Please open me for details of walks, courses and events taking place at Blashford Lakes this season
Guided Walks and Family Events

Booking is essential - please book your place on: telephone 01425 472760, or e-mail BlashfordLakes@hiwwt.org.uk

We welcome a suggested donation of £4 per person, unless otherwise stated.

Please note that children must be supervised at all times and that dogs are not permitted on this nature reserve.

Events marked (f) are suitable for families.

New Year Birds
January Thurs 5th
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
A walk around the reserve looking at the range of birds the reserve hosts at this time of year. Wear suitable, warm outdoor clothing and footwear, bring binoculars. Booking essential.

In to Roost
January Thurs 12th
3:30 – 5pm
Watch as thousands of birds come into roost on and around Ibsley Water. Booking essential, please wear suitable warm clothing, bring binoculars. Booking essential.

Winter Birds
February Sun 5th
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
A walk around the reserve looking at the range of birds the reserve hosts at this time of year. Wear suitable, warm outdoor clothing and footwear, bring binoculars. Booking essential.

Night Senses (f)
February Fri 17th
7 – 8:30 pm
Don't be afraid of the dark! Set off into the gloaming on a family multisensory night time adventure. Booking essential.

Late Winter Birds
February Thurs 16th
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
A walk around the reserve looking at the range of birds the reserve hosts at this time of year. Wear suitable, warm outdoor clothing and footwear, bring binoculars. Booking essential.

Introduction to the Night Sky (f)
February Thurs 23rd
6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Join us for an introductory talk on the sky tonight, before heading outside to observe the late Winter constellations with the Fordingbridge Astronomers*.
*In the event of cloud an extended talk and indoor demonstration of telescopes and astro-software will be available.
All proceeds from the event will be split between HIWWT and Fordingbridge Astronomers. Suitable for age 8 years and over. Booking essential.

Finchfest 2017
March Thurs 2nd
2:00pm – 4:00pm
A general birdwatching walk, particularly in search of flocks of finches, which often peak in numbers at this time of year. Wear suitable, warm outdoor clothing and footwear, bring binoculars. Booking essential.

Signs of Spring
March Thurs 16th 2:00 pm – 4:00pm
A walk around the reserve looking for the first signs of Spring. Wear suitable, warm outdoor clothing and footwear, bring binoculars. Booking essential.

Courses for Adults
To book please telephone 01489 774400 or e-mail courses@hiwwt.org.uk

All courses have limited numbers so please book at least two weeks in advance.

Digital Wildlife Photography
10am - 4pm
Basics 1  Mar Sat 4th
Basics 2  Mar Sat 18th
Macro  Mar Sat 25th
Birds  April Sat 1st

Course Tutor: John Coombes
Understand your camera and learn to take beautiful wildlife photographs.
Cost £216 (or £60 per session).
**Buggy Walks**
Get outside, get fit, meet other parents and discover wildlife on a pushchair friendly walk. Meet at the Centre on alternate Fridays 10.30am-12pm. Telephone Tracy, 01425 472760 for information. Suggested donation £2.

**Healthy Walks**
Meet at Tern Hide at 11am every 2nd and 4th Wednesday in the month for a walk lasting approximately 1 hour. Walking for Health is coordinated by the Ramblers and Macmillan Cancer Support. Contact Nigel Owen on 01425 655511 or e-mail nigeltowen@aol.com

**Binoculars and Telescopes**
Join ‘In Focus’, optics and binocular specialists, for one of their regular events to try out different optics in the bird hide and find out what is best for you. These events will take place 10am - 4pm in the Tern Hide, usually, but not always on the first Tuesday of the month. Please check their website for changes in dates & details; http://www.at-infocus.co.uk/south_west.html or telephone Keith on 07909874527.

**Wild Days Out!**
Play, explore, discover and learn during the school holidays! “Wild Days Out” are registered with Ofsted.
Time: 10am - 3pm Cost: £15
Places are limited so booking is essential – please e-mail blashfordlakes@hiwwt.org.uk for more information and details on how to book.

**Winter Craft**
Feb Tue 21st, 7-12 yr olds
Feb Wed 22nd, 5-8 yr olds
Spend a crafty day on the reserve, using natural materials to sculpt and weave and create magnificently wintery works of art!

**Young Naturalists**
Calling all 13 to 17 year olds! Get outside, have fun, learn new skills, and improve your wildlife knowledge. Young Naturalists meets monthly for practical conservation tasks, survey work, bird and wildlife watching.
Young Naturalists is funded by the Cameron Bespolka Trust.
Time: 10am-2:30pm on Sundays 29th January, 26th February, 26th March and every last Sunday in the month.

www.hiwwt.org.uk Protecting wildlife, inspiring people