

# Enjoying our nature reserves

To enjoy your visit please...



- Respect wildlife.
- Keep dogs under strict control.
- Bring your binoculars and wear suitable clothing for watching wildlife.
- Take your litter away with you.
- Keep to the footpaths.



## Protecting Broadwater Lake

As part of a chain of lakes, Broadwater Lake is a vital link in the Colne Valley Living Landscape. The Wildlife Trust's Living Landscape vision is about reconnecting and restoring habitats on a large scale, helping wildlife to move and adapt to a changing environment. The Wildlife Trust needs your help to continue to protect places like this.

## How you can help us

We need your support to continue to protect local wildlife.

Why not:

- **Join as a member** – The majority of our income comes from our membership. We need you!
- **Volunteer** – work parties take place in winter months, please contact us if you would like to get involved.
- **Fundraise** – get your workplace or school involved and have fun raising money at the same time.

Visit our website to find out more  
[www.hertswildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.hertswildlifetrust.org.uk)

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Herts and  
Middlesex



## Broadwater Lake Nature Reserve



## Watch out for...

- Common terns in summer
- Great crested grebes
- Tufted ducks

## Welcome to Broadwater Lake Nature Reserve

Explore Broadwater Lake and discover the wildlife of the largest water-filled gravel pit in the north of the Colne Valley.

Bordered by the River Colne on one side and the Grand Union Canal on the other, Broadwater Lake was created by the extraction of sand and gravel from the 1960s to the 1980s. These materials were used to build Heathrow airport and the M25.

Since gravel extraction, with careful management, it has become a very special place for wildlife and a refuge for birds in the Colne Valley Park.

It is a Site of Special Scientific Interest because of the nationally important populations of birds which breed and winter here such as great crested grebes, shoveler and gadwall.



### Getting around

Size: 19.4ha (48 acres).  
Wildlife Walk: Flat linear path along the western edge of the lake.  
Approx. 1.2 miles (2.4 miles return).  
Surfaces: Unsurfaced grassy path, uneven in places. Very muddy and rutted in winter.

### Watchpoints

Visit the two wildfowl watchpoints to view the birds which feed and breed on Broadwater Lake. In winter thousands of ducks such as wigeon and goldeneye migrate into the Colne Valley, with many spending the winter on Broadwater Lake.



### River Colne

The River Colne runs alongside the reserve. Fifteen different species of fish live in the river and lakes. They feed on insects which thrive on the diversity of plants growing underwater. Birds which feed on the fish include kingfishers which you may see flying along the river, or listen for their high pitched 'see-tee' call.



### Summer visitors

In summer, common terns fly 10,000 miles from Africa to nest on the special rafts anchored in the middle of the lake. They are also joined by other migratory birds such as reed and sedge warblers which nest in the reeds and vegetation along the edge of the lake.

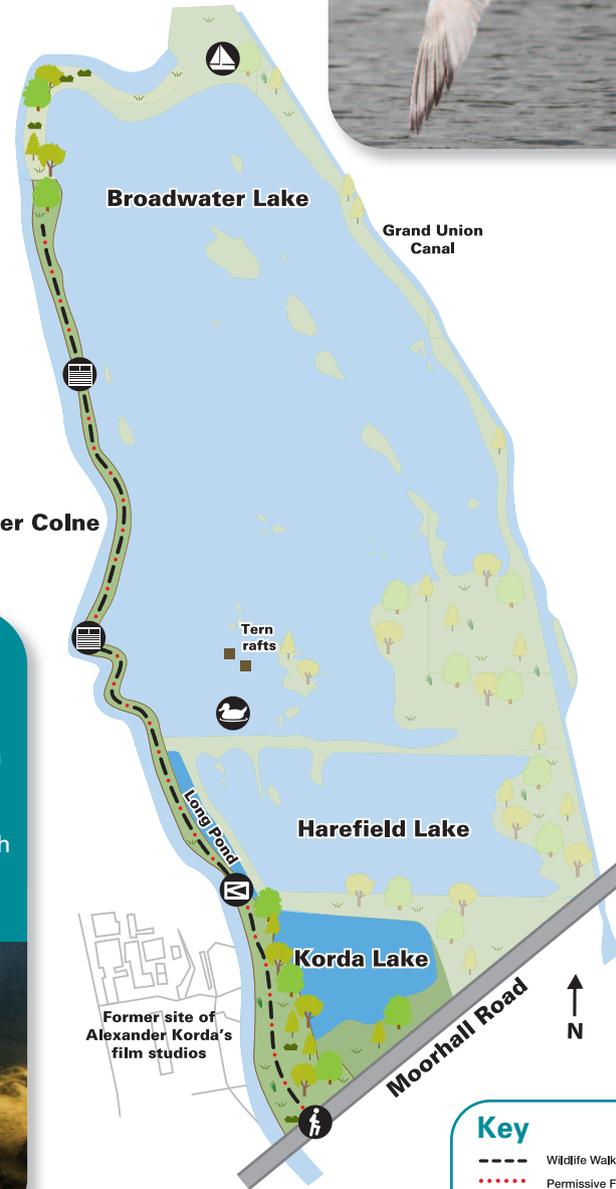


### Islands

Wooded islands on Broadwater Lake provide nesting places for grey herons and little egrets. In the shallows along the lake's shoreline, look out for perch and other fish which provide food for these birds.



River Colne



#### Key

- Wildlife Walk
- Permissive Footpath
- Pedestrian Entrance
- Kissing Gate
- Wildfowl Watchpoint
- Wildfowl Refuge
- Broadwater Sailing Club

Only dark green/blue shaded areas denote nature reserve