

# 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 Stocker's Lake

As part of a chain of lakes, Stocker's 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 on the first Sunday of every month.
- **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



## Stocker's Lake Nature Reserve

## Watch out for...

- Grey herons
- Common terns in summer
- Goldeneye in winter

## Welcome to Stocker's Lake Nature Reserve

Take a walk around Stocker's Lake and discover this reserve's special wildlife.

One of many old gravel pits in the Colne Valley, Stocker's Lake was originally dug for gravel in the 1920s and 30s. Much of this went to build the old Wembley Stadium. Since gravel extraction ceased, the lake has filled naturally with water creating the wildlife haven that you see today.

**In winter**, Stocker's Lake becomes one of the best places to birdwatch in the Colne Valley as thousands of ducks migrate in from places such as Russia, Iceland and Scandinavia. From October to March, Stocker's Lake is home to ducks such as wigeon, goldeneye, shoveler and smew.

**In summer**, the lake supports over 60 species of breeding bird including common terns, reed warblers and sedge warblers that migrate here from Africa.

### Getting around

Size: 40 ha (100 acres).  
Wildlife Walk: Flat circular path around the lake, 1½ miles in length.  
Surfaces: Mostly unsurfaced paths, uneven and narrow in places. Muddy in winter.

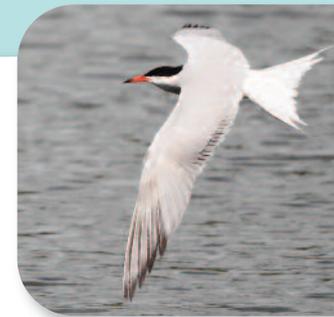
### The hides

Visit the hides around the lake to get close-up views of ducks such as pochard (pictured) and woodland birds.



### Tern rafts

Look across the lake to see the rafts built to provide nesting habitat for common terns. Look out for these birds swooping over the lake when they return from Africa to breed here in the summer.



### Key

|                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Wildlife Walk    | Bird Watching Hide |
| Public Footpath  | Kissing Gate       |
| Other Footpaths  | Bridge             |
| Heron Watchpoint | Parking            |

### Heron watchpoint

The large islands in the middle of the lake provide breeding habitat for grey herons which like to nest in tall trees. This is the largest herony in Hertfordshire with 25 pairs returning to their nests each year in late winter.

