

Broadwater Warren

Finding your way around

The best way to discover the wildlife of the reserve is to follow one of our way-marked trails.

The trails will take you through a rich variety of habitats, where there is always the chance of finding something unexpected. See if you can find lizards basking on the open heathland paths, or a giant wood ants' nest within the sheltered wet woodlands.

Make sure you wear suitable footwear as the ground can be uneven and muddy at times.

Please keep dogs on leads to prevent disturbance of ground-nesting birds during the breeding season from 1 February to 30 September.

□ Nature trail

A 1½-mile trail around a large expanse of heathland and down a wet woodland ride. Allow 40 minutes to complete the trail.

In spring the heathland is alive with birdsong. This area is a prime location for watching tree pipits carrying out their parachute displays.

Spend some time at the pond watching grey wagtails feed amongst the vegetation. They regularly nest on the island in the middle.

Keep your eyes peeled for golden ringed dragonflies as you walk past the streams.

■ Heathland and woodland trail

A 3-mile trail giving you a taste of the whole reserve. Allow two hours to walk, plus extra time to soak in the views.

Listen out for the drumming of woodpeckers as you head along the zigzag boardwalk. The high points of the Western heath offer views that look out across the valley.

Spot silver-washed fritillaries down the flower-rich woodland rides, where you will also find our huge veteran oak.

The trip to the Heathland viewpoint is well worth the detour and makes a great resting spot.

