

Middleton Lakes

Finding your way around

To discover what makes RSPB Middleton Lakes so special for nature, start exploring today.

■ Play meadow trail

Kids of all ages can follow this 500 m trail for fun and adventure.

Discover the enchanted woodland, build a den, then race over to the grassy mound. And don't forget to explore the maze! There are stepping stones, pond dipping areas and lots of minibeasts to discover too, plus picnic tables for when you need a rest.

■ Woodland trail

Follow the colour-coded finger posts along this 700 m trail through some of our prettiest scenery.

First stop is Heron Corner where, during the first half of the year, you can watch the hustle and bustle of life in a heron colony. The boardwalk runs alongside one of the reserve's busiest bird feeders where you might see tits and finches, as well as great and lesser spotted woodpeckers.

The trail winds gently through our beautiful ancient woodland and ends at the canal, but you can continue to explore the reserve on the Wetland and Meadow trails.

■ Meadow trail

This new, 1.5 km high-level walkway runs parallel to the canal, providing great views across our Southern Meadow.

If you're lucky, you might see owls hunting, skylarks soaring or green woodpeckers searching for ants. The walkway is part of the flood defence bund system through the Tame Valley. The height of the bund gives you great views across the Southern Meadow towards the river. The meadow can be very wet at times and we often graze our Konik ponies and Old English Longhorn cattle here. They help to keep the habitat just right for the wildlife.

■ Wetland trail

Look out across the tranquil lakes and reedbeds along this 3 km trail and you'll find it hard to believe that they were once quarry pits.

They are now havens for all kinds of wildlife, including hobbies. With the help of a grant from Viridor Credits, we have created habitat for lapwings here. Head to one of the viewing screens to watch them displaying in spring.

The Lookout hide is open daily. If you find it locked, use the code c5678z to open the outer door. Once inside, please keep the inner door closed and ensure that you close all windows and doors when you leave. Thank you!

