



# Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust

Berkshire  
Buckinghamshire  
Oxfordshire



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## College Lake

An outstanding centre for wildlife



### Reserve information



**Location**

2 miles north of  
Tring  
Buckinghamshire  
HP23 5QG

**Map reference**

SP 9314 1436

**Great for...**

a family day out  
birdwatching  
getting away from it all



**Best time to visit**

Jan - Dec

Much-loved lapwing can be seen year 'round at College Lake. In winter, large flocks fly acrobatically in the sky above the water, while in summer, lapwing hatch their chicks on protected islands.

[A visionary nature reserve](#)

Once a chalk quarry, College Lake is now one of the Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust's flagship nature reserves. The transformation is a fantastic example of what people passionate about wildlife can bring about through a shared vision and sheer determination. Thanks to the hard work of BBOWT staff and volunteers, this thriving nature reserve now supports more than 1,000 different wildlife species. An [eco visitor centre](#) with stunning views of the lakes opened to the public in 2010.

## Best in the county

College Lake is widely regarded as one of the best places in Buckinghamshire for water birds, and with many hides overlooking the lake, this is a great destination for bird watchers or for families, whatever the weather or time of year.

## Wetland birds

The marshland is perhaps the most important of the reserve's homes for wildlife, as in the summer it supports a number of breeding waders. These include lapwing and redshank, both of which are rare species, and College Lake is a key breeding site in Buckinghamshire. In the lake, common terns nest on specially created islands. In the winter, the inhabitants of the water change, and wintering wildfowl, such as wigeon and teal, from Scandinavia and beyond, use the wetlands for feeding and roosting.

## Grassland and more

Elsewhere on the reserve, chalk grassland is alive with colour during the spring and summer as a wide variety of flowers come into bloom. These support a range of insects, including a number of rarer butterfly species such as the small blue. Rough grassland provides a home for breeding skylarks, as well as shelter for small mammals, which in turn feed birds of prey such as kestrels and barn owls. Woodland, scrub and hedgerows are widespread across the reserve, and support a wide variety of wildlife, including finches and tits and in winter. thrushes such as fieldfare and redwings.

## Cornfield flowers

An unusual feature of College Lake is the Cornfield Flowers project that started in the 1980s. College Lake was one of the first places in the country to actively conserve these rare and beautiful flowers, and the reserve now produces a glorious show of colour every year during June and July.

## Reserve champions - supporting their favourite reserve

**Geoff Young:** In memory of Fred Young.

## Things to do & places to go

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### Get directions

[Find out here](#)



### Public transport

[Plan your journey](#)



### Opening Times

Reserve

Spring and summer

opening times - 6th

February 2017 to 29th

October 2017: 9.30am-

5.00pm

Last admission: 4pm (1  
hour before closing)

Please note: from 30th  
October 2017 - 12th  
February 2018, the  
reserve will be closed at  
4pm, with last admission  
at 3pm (1 hour before  
closing)

Café

10.00am-4.00pm 7 days  
a week.



### Facilities

Cafe

Gift shop

Visitor centre

Picnic facilities

Toilets

Disabled toilet

Baby changing

Try our circular Wildlife Walk (2 miles). Just follow the lapwing waymarkers.

- Explore the world of bees at the Bee Centre.
- Find out about the old farming methods that we still practice here in the Farming Exhibition.
- Visit our 'Oulook Inn' a hands-on wildlife treasure box for under 5s.
- Look out for our seasonal guided walks and Family Fun days.
- We run regular work parties on the reserve.
- There are 11 bird hides around the reserve.
- Explore the reserve and surrounding area with our Tring Reservoirs Wild Walk. Starting at Tring train station, this 13 km circular walk takes in College Lake nature reserve, a section of the Grand Union Canal and three reservoirs. OS Explorer Map 181, 1:25,000 scale, covers the route of this walk.



**Tring Reservoirs Wild Walk**

Explore Tring: stroll along the waterside and look for waterbirds on this gentle walk.

Starting at Tring train station, this 13 km circular walk takes in the banks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust's BBOWT College Lake nature reserve, a section of the Grand Union Canal and three reservoirs.

- 12 km (about 3 hours)
- There is an additional 2 mile wildlife walk around College Lake
- There is a cafe at the visitor centre at College Lake, which is open during the hours of the walk for the opening times.

How to get to the start

Practicalities: 10/12/2020 - 31/12/2020

By car: Check www.bbowt.org.uk for information about local buses.

By train: The walk can start at Tring train station, check www.rail.gov.uk for train times.

By bike: There is parking at Tring train station, on Tring reserve and at College Lake.

By bike: There is cycle storage at Tring train station and College Lake.

Notes: help us look after wildlife at College Lake. Only assistance dogs are allowed on the nature reserve.

**NATURE NOTES**

<b>Albatross</b> Albatrosses are found on the ground in wet areas. They are large birds with long necks and are often seen in large numbers on wet ground and in shallow water. They are a common sight in the reserve and are often seen in the water. They are a common sight in the reserve and are often seen in the water.	<b>Wigeon</b> Wigeon are found in wet areas. They are large birds with long necks and are often seen in large numbers on wet ground and in shallow water. They are a common sight in the reserve and are often seen in the water.	<b>Lapwing</b> Lapwings are found in wet areas. They are large birds with long necks and are often seen in large numbers on wet ground and in shallow water. They are a common sight in the reserve and are often seen in the water.	<b>Commons</b> Commons are found in wet areas. They are large birds with long necks and are often seen in large numbers on wet ground and in shallow water. They are a common sight in the reserve and are often seen in the water.
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Protecting local wildlife




## Species and habitats


**Habitats** [Grassland](#), [Wetland](#)


**Species** [Colt's-foot](#), [Milkwort](#), [Poppy](#), [Cornflower](#), [Cowslip](#), [Guelder-rose](#), [Kidney Vetch](#), [Pheasant's-eye](#), [Primrose](#), [Spindle](#), [Wild Thyme](#), [Green Hairstreak](#), [Marbled White](#), [Honey Bee](#), [Leaf-cutter Bee](#), [Red-tailed Bumblebee](#), [White-tailed Bumblebee](#), [Common Tern](#), [Gadwall](#), [Great Crested Grebe](#), [Hobby](#), [Kestrel](#), [Kingfisher](#), [Lapwing](#), [Little Ringed Plover](#), [Meadow Pipit](#), [Pochard](#), [Sand Martin](#), [Shoveler](#), [Skylark](#), [Snipe](#), [Sparrowhawk](#), [Teal](#), [Tufted Duck](#), [Wigeon](#), [Brown Hare](#)

## Nature reserve map


## Nearby nature reserves


-  **Aldbury Nowers**  
1 miles - Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust
-  **Tring Reservoirs**  
2 miles - Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust
-  **Aston Clinton Ragpits**  
4 miles - Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust

 **Size**  
65.00 hectares

 **Access**  
Some wheelchair access, including hides; two mobility Trumper vehicles are available to use - contact us on 01442 826774 or [collegelake@bbowt.org.uk](mailto:collegelake@bbowt.org.uk) to book

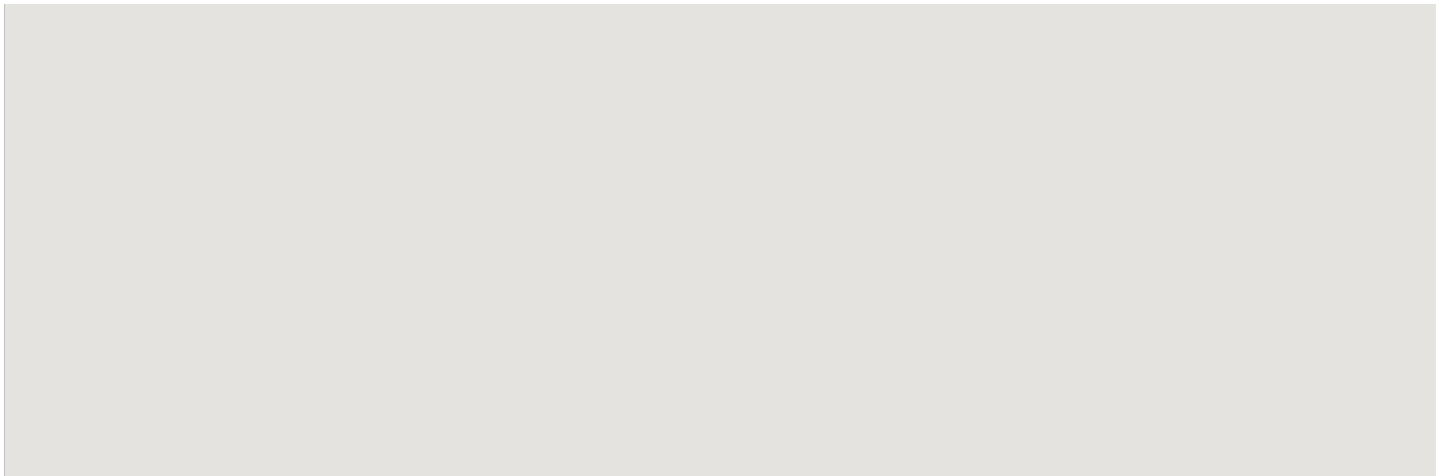
**Walking information**  
Gentle slopes, some surfaced paths, gates, benches

 **Parking**  
On the B488, ¼ mile north of canal bridge at Bulbourne turn left into signed entrance to surfaced car park; cycle racks also available

 **Dogs**  
Guide dogs only

**Grazing animals**  
Yes

 **Reserve manager**  
Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT)  
Tel: 01442 826774  
[collegelake@bbowt.org.uk](mailto:collegelake@bbowt.org.uk)



## Smartphone Safari

Every weekend on [BBC Radio Berkshire](#) and [BBC Radio Oxford](#) we broadcast a *Smartphone Safari*. Listen along as we explore some of our fantastic reserves and introduce you to the wildlife you can see.

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Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust: Registered Charity Number 204330, Company Registered Number 00680007

Website by [Precedent](#)