

Broad Colney Lakes

A peaceful refuge for both wildlife and people, where great crested grebes breed.



The three lakes are quite different from one another: one is fed by the River Colne, one is relatively still and deep and the smallest has partially developed into marshy woodland. A variety of land and water birds can be found here. Great crested grebes can be seen on the lake, along with tufted duck, whilst in the alder trees flocks of siskin feed, along with mixed flocks of finches and tits. Otters travelling up and down the River Colne pass through the reserve.

The range of [habitats](#), from open water through wet woodland into dry grassland, offer suitable conditions for many different plants. These range from [emergent](#) plants such as fringed water lily in the deeper water. Twenty-one species of tree and shrub have been recorded including five species of willow.

The reserve is managed in order to maintain and enhance the diversity of species, particularly around the margins of the lake. More open conditions are created to encourage vegetation which is vital for aquatic insects such as damselflies and dragonflies.

The freehold to the reserve was donated to the Trust by Lafarge Ltd in 1977.

Access to the reserve has been improved with a path network suitable for people with disabilities. [Download a leaflet](#).

- [Get driving directions](#)
- [Find nearby public transport](#)

How to Get Here

Location

Shenley Lane, London Colney

Directions

Head south along the B5378 Shenley Lane from London Colney to Shenley. Reserve car park on the left about 100 yards after St Anne's Road.

Public Transport Links

Bus: Shenley Lane (659).

Walking Links

Map Reference

TL 175033

Visitor Guide

Size

10.6 hectares (26.2 acres).

Access to site

From car park on Shenley Lane or from public footpaths off A1081 London Colney High Street.

Access around site

There are footpaths all around the reserve, mostly unsurfaced. The ground is generally flat and fairly even. In dry weather wheelchair access is available from the car park to a viewing point over the main lake.

Walking time

1 1/4 hours

Advice on what to wear/bring

Wellingtons recommended.

Map of site (if available)