

Stanborough Reedmarsh

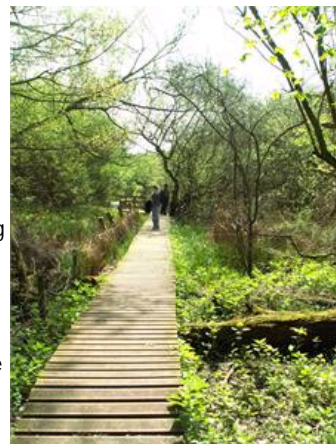
At the farthest end of the popular Stanborough Park Lakes is a quiet and rich wildlife haven, including the third largest reedbed in Hertfordshire.

The reserve is composed of willow woodland, river bank and fine reed marsh. The wet woodland consists mainly of various types of willow, some of which have been [pollarded](#) in the past. The wet, peaty soil is rich in nutrients that are responsible for the fast growth of vegetation, such as great hairy willowherb and meadowsweet. In summer you may see water figwort, common meadow rue and water chickweed along the river bank. On the far side of the river the reed marsh is clearly visible and this is an important [habitat](#) for large numbers of reed and sedge warblers which nest here in summer. In winter water rails are heard and reed and corn buntings gather to roost in the evening.

Reed marsh is a fragile habitat and without careful management would soon silt up and eventually become willow and alder woodland. This is known as the process of [succession](#) and the reserve as a whole is an excellent example of this; ranging from open water through reed marsh to woodland.

The reserve is leased to the Trust from Welwyn Hatfield Council.

The management regime is designed to encourage diversity of species. To prevent losing the reed marsh, the reeds are cut in rotation and removed to allow fresh reed growth. The reeds were once cut in this way and used in roof thatching.



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

How to Get Here

Location

Welwyn Garden City

Directions

Leave the A1M at junction 4, taking the A6129 (Stanborough Road). At the next small roundabout, take the right hand turn towards Welwyn Garden city town centre and carry on, passing the Lakes, to the next roundabout. Here, take a U turn and then turn left into the Stanborough Lakes car park. Follow the path between the river and the lake into the reserve.

Public Transport Links

Trains to Welwyn Garden City Station. Bus stop on Stanborough Road

Walking Links

Map Reference

TL 230105

Visitor Guide

Size

3 hectares

Access to site

Accessible at all times

Access around site

Walking time

Advice on what to wear/bring

Good walking shoes recommended. Wellingtons when wet

Map of site (if available)