

## Waterford Heath

Waterford Heath is a former sand and gravel quarry north of Hertford. Quarrying ceased on the site in the early 1990s and work was undertaken to restore it to create a 'community nature park'. It contains a range of habitats including grassland, scrub, plantation woodland and a small area of ancient, semi-natural woodland.

There are 2 distinct areas within the reserve. The northern section is characterised by poor quality soils - and as a result supports diverse grassland flora, including viper's bugloss, common centaury, carline thistle and bird's foot trefoil. It also has large populations of wild strawberry, the food plant of the locally scarce butterfly, the grizzled skipper. Other butterflies found on the Heath include purple hairstreak.

The southern section of the Heath has much richer soils - and therefore less diverse flora. Scrub dominates a number of areas - although in surviving open areas common spotted orchid and broad-leaved helleborine have been recorded. It does contain a number of sandy banks which are valuable habitat for a range of warmth loving insects.

Skylarks and willow warblers are known to breed on the site. In the autumn and winter fieldfares and redwings are regular visitors. Kestrels and sparrowhawks have been known to breed in the conifer plantations - as have goldcrest. Reptiles include slow worm, common lizard and grass snake.

The River Beane flows adjacent to the northern tip of the reserve. Kingfisher may be spotted in this area.

A pleasant walk at any time of year - but spring and summer are usually the best times to watch wildlife.

## How to Get Here

### Location

North of Hertford

### Directions

Take the A119 to Waterford. In Waterford turn onto Bullsmill Lane. Turn right onto Sacombe Road and next right onto Vicarage Lane. The reserve car park will be on your right.

### Public Transport Links

### Walking Links

### Map Reference

TL 318150

### Visitor Guide

### Size

### Access to site

Accessible at all times

### Access around site

### Walking time

### Advice on what to wear/bring

Conditions are easy and the site is generally relatively dry

### Map of site (if available)