

## Barkway Chalk Pit

A small reserve with interesting geology that supports many birds

You can see a series of major and minor faults on the chalk face here. These are the result of the action of the ancient ice sheet that once covered East Anglia, and which crumpled the chalk and pushed it over the boulder clay. The surrounding vegetation is mainly chalk scrub, including wild plum and downy rose.

Although a small reserve many different species of bird can be seen at Barkway and are quite easy to find. Parties of long tailed tits often work their way through the shrubs surrounding the chalk face. In the summer months whitethroats sing from the hedgerows bordering the pit. Other species recorded are yellowhammer, spotted flycatcher, blue tit and tawny owl.

Butterflies recorded at the reserve include orange tip, green veined white and meadow brown, with areas of grassland being encouraged to develop to provide nectar sources for these and other species.

Barkway Pit is leased from North Herts District Council.

### Autumn/Winter

The reserve can be quite quiet at this time of year, although many different birds can be seen both in the pit and the surrounding area. Common species such as robin, wren, dunnock and blackbird can be found together with farmland species such as yellowhammer and corn bunting.

Management work on the reserve focuses on clearing the chalk face and cutting the path which leads into the reserve. During the summer months large areas of nettles grow on the reserve so small areas are cut to allow access. Most are left to provide excellent habitat for butterflies and nesting birds.

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

## How to Get Here

### Location

South of Royston

### Directions

The reserve is on an unnamed road between The Joint and B1039 Royston Road. Turn off the A10 towards the village of Reed (onto The Joint) and then follow this road until you see a big mast. Take the turning on the left.

### Public Transport Links

Bus: Barkway Village Hall (331).

### Walking Links

Search for Barkway on [www.walk4life.info](http://www.walk4life.info)

### Map Reference

TL 381366

## Visitor Guide

### Size

0.3 hectares (0.8 acres).

### Access to site

Small entrance gate.

Access around site

Mown footpath leads to the exposed chalk face. There are two benches for visitors.

Walking time

10-15 minutes

Advice on what to wear/bring

Outdoor footwear

Map of site (if available)