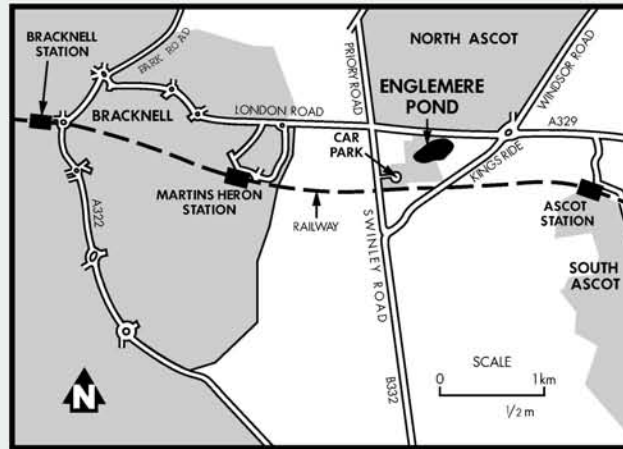


Heather and Cross-Leaved Heath, in the forest clearings. Oak, Mountain Ash, Willow and Silver Birch are also to be found here, and the Alder trees are a favourite haunt of wintering migrant birds such as Siskins and Redpolls which feed on the seeds.



**Brilliant
Emerald
Dragonfly**



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General Information

The site includes a car park and picnic area, with tables and benches. Parts of the site, particularly in the immediate vicinity of the car park, are suitable for wheelchair use.

There is also pedestrian access from the A329 (London Road) and a regular bus service passes the site. From Martin Herons railway station, on the eastern outskirts of Bracknell, you can walk through the woodland at Swinley Park to reach Englemere Pond.

For more information about Englemere Pond contact the Open Spaces, Countryside & Heritage Service at The Look Out on 01344 354441 or The Crown Estate at The Estate Office, The Great Park, Windsor on 01753 860222.

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BRACKNELL FOREST ENGLEMERE POND NATURE RESERVE



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NGLEMERE POND

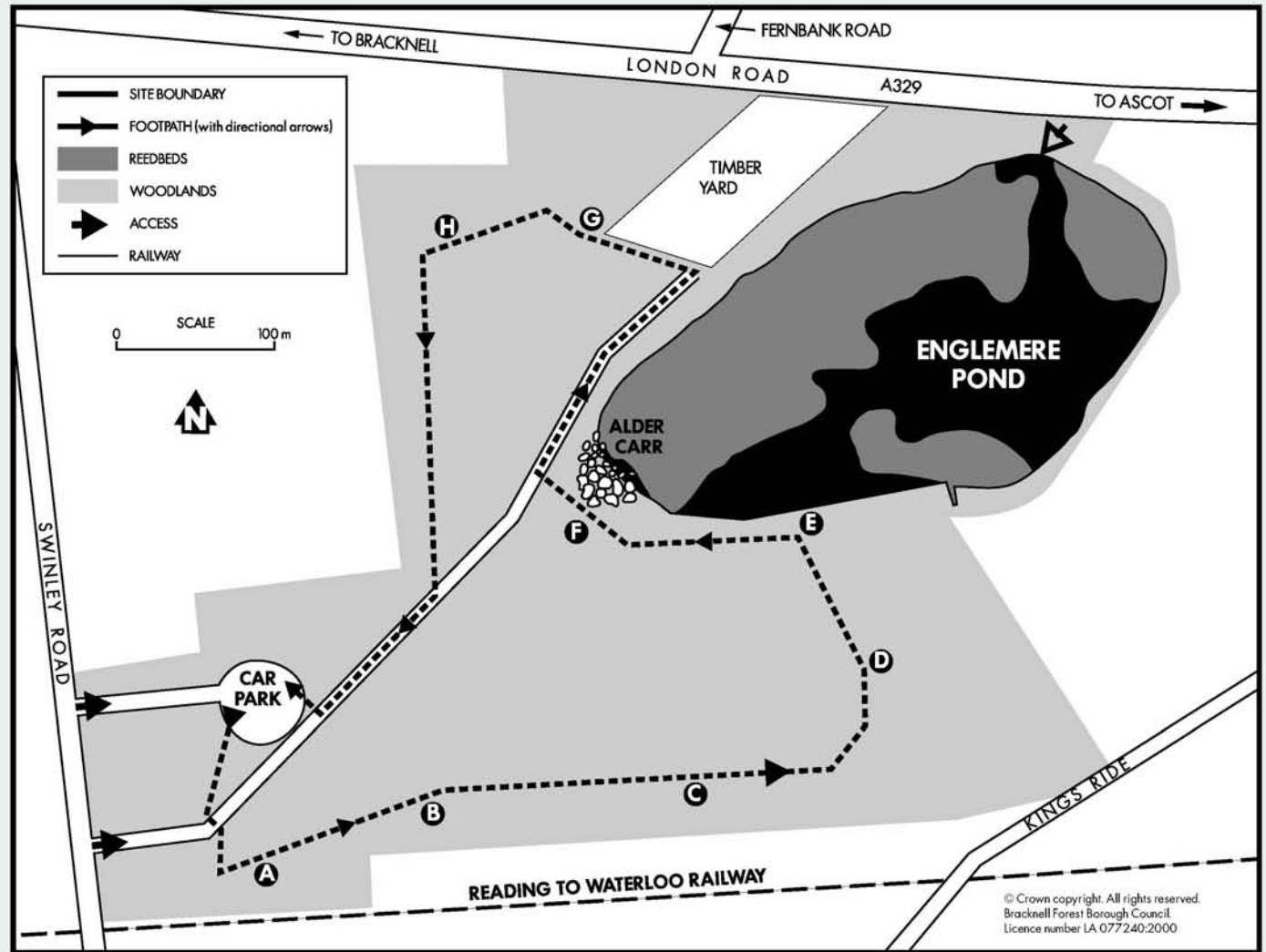
Englemere Pond, between Bracknell and Ascot, is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and a Local Nature Reserve. The land was once part of the royal hunting forest which surrounded Windsor Castle for many centuries and is still owned by The Crown Estate. The site's main feature is the shallow acidic lake which offers a wide range of habitats from open water to marsh, all of which is surrounded by commercial forest and heathland areas. Each of these areas provides its own variety of plant species and a home for many birds, insects and animals. The heathlands of East Berkshire are now recognised by English Nature to be of European importance for habitat conservation. Englemere Pond has been designated a SSSI by English Nature for the rare wetland plants and animals found here.

NATURE TRAIL

A nature trail, approximately 1 mile/1.6km long, enables you to explore the site and make your visit more informative and enjoyable. The trail is circular, starts and finishes in the car park (by the gate on the right) and will take up to an hour to complete. No special clothing is needed but you are advised to bring wellington boots or walking boots in winter, when it can be wet and muddy underfoot. The route is well waymarked with a series of lettered and arrowed posts. To help you navigate your way round, the route of the nature trail and corresponding letters appear on the plan of the site in this leaflet.

WHAT TO SEE

The warm days of summer bring out the brightly coloured dragonflies, which dart to and fro over the cotton grass and marshy areas. Fine summer evenings, too, are a good



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time to watch feeding Sand-martins and Swallows swooping low over the water in order to catch flies, and at dusk hunting bats emerge from their roosts to feed. Spring is when toads and palmate newts are spawning, and when the weather warms up, the water level in the pond rapidly drops, so rainfall is always helpful. The extensive reed bed around the pond is where, in warmer conditions, you may catch sight of a grass snake. The reed bed and shallow lake are important for many specialised birds and insects. The woodland, under the management of The Crown Estate is predominantly Scots Pine, with patches of heather, including Ling, Bell



Swallow