

water, marginal shallows, shingle, bare ground, rough grassland and patches of developing scrub. Cattle graze on the banks of the lake at certain times of the year, and, as part of the restoration programme, some tree planting has also taken place.



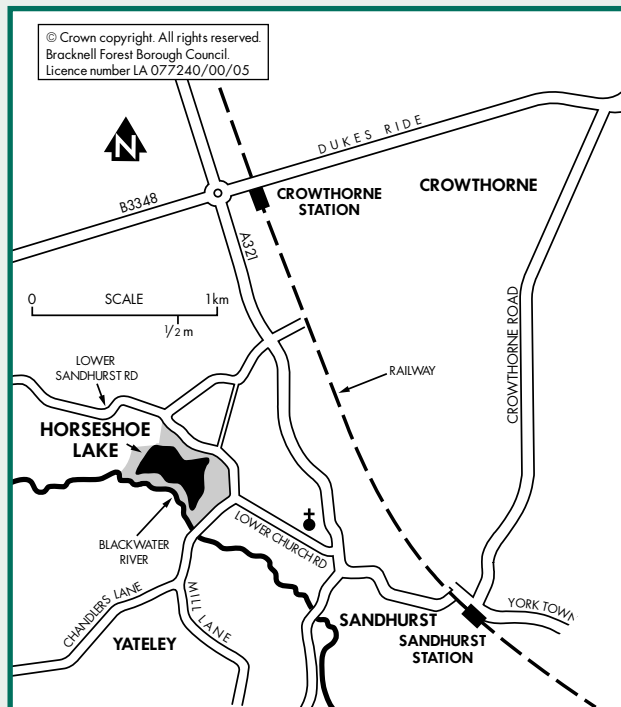
Barn Owl

WATERSPORTS

Horseshoe Lake is a superbly resourced centre, provided by Bracknell Forest Borough Council and managed by Freetime Leisure. The Centre is dedicated to the concept of 'watersports for all'. Dinghy sailing, windsurfing, dragon boating, canoeing and raft building are among the activities taking place here. For general enquiries telephone Freetime Leisure on 01252 871808.



Kingfisher



How to get there: Follow the A321 to Sandhurst. Turn into Lower Church road, by the church. Follow the road for about half a mile. Turn left at the T junction (Mill Lane) and the entrance to Horseshoe Lake car park is on the right after a short distance.

For more information about Horseshoe Lake contact the Open Spaces, Countryside & Heritage Service on 01344 354124.

www.blackwatervalley.service.com

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This leaflet is available in large print, braille, or on audio tape on request, please contact 01344 354124 for further details



BRACKNELL FOREST
 HORSESHOE LAKE

OPEN SPACES, COUNTRYSIDE
 & HERITAGE SERVICE



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ORSESHOE LAKE

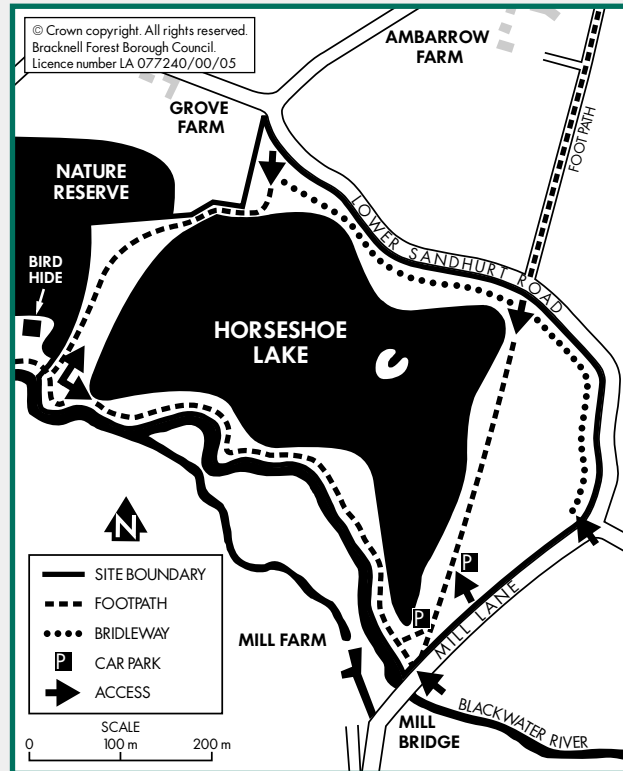
Horseshoe Lake, which covers about 22 acres and is named after its horseshoe-shaped island, lies about half a mile to the west of Sandhurst. Originally part of an extensive network of working gravel pits that have now been flooded, this restored site occupies an attractive setting in the Blackwater Valley and is now established as an extremely popular venue for those who enjoy dinghy sailing, windsurfing, canoeing, birdwatching and walking.

WALKING AND HORSERIDING

There is plenty of scope for a stroll beside Horseshoe Lake. A bridleway runs along the northern boundary and a clear path circumnavigates the lake, providing very pleasant views of the site and the surrounding countryside. Access points shown on the plan in this leaflet enable you to make Horseshoe Lake part of a country walk in the area. The Blackwater Valley Footpath is a 19mile/30km long distance route running mostly alongside the river and established by the Blackwater Valley Recreation and Countryside Management Service. A booklet showing the footpath in detailed sections can be obtained by contacting BVRCMS on 01276 686615. Cycling is also permitted on some sections of the riverside path including the section at Horseshoe Lake.

LAKESIDE TRAIL

To complete this circular walk, make for the path at the far end of the car park, turn sharp right and head for the main building of the Horseshoe Lake Watersports Centre. Go straight on along a waymarked path.



Follow the path as it curves left, avoiding the gate leading out to the bridleway and the road beyond, and walk alongside the water. Go through a metal gate and follow the path between fences. On this stretch of the walk, to the west, you can see neighbouring Moor Green Lake Nature Reserve, an important site for breeding and wintering birds. Cross a stile, pass a kissing gate on the right and continue ahead. Follow part of the Blackwater Valley Footpath as it runs between the lake and the River Blackwater. The river, which forms the county boundary between Berkshire and Hampshire, meanders close to you on the right. Turn left through a kissing gate, just before the road, and follow a stretch of boardwalk back to the car park.

FISHING

Fishing is allowed on the River Blackwater, but not on the Lake. For details of fishing permits contact The Countryside Service at The Look Out on 01344 354441.

WILDLIFE

Site surveys carried out at Horseshoe Lake in recent years have confirmed that the site is home to a wide variety of birds, including winter visitors and breeding



Great Crested Grebe

birds. Mallard, Gadwall, Pochard, Tufted Duck, Goosander, Wigeon, Teal, Shoveler, Canada Goose, Mute Swan, Great Crested Grebe, Little Grebe, Coot, Lapwing, Common Tern, Redshank and Ringed Plover are among those species recorded at Horseshoe Lake. House Martins, Swallows and Swifts can be seen swooping for insects, and the Barn Owl, a protected species under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, is also known to inhabit the site. Other wildlife includes several species of grasshoppers and crickets, twelve species of dragonflies and eighteen species of butterflies. These invertebrates depend on the range of habitats present at Horseshoe Lake including open