

## Horseshoe Lake

Horseshoe Lake was originally part of an extensive network of working gravel pits. These have now been flooded and are an important part of the Blackwater Valley for wildlife, recreation and water sports.

## **Facilities**

- Parking
- Surfaced paths
- Picnic tables
- Water sports
- Café
- Information panels

## Circular route

For lakeside views, walk the 1.2 mile (2 km) loop walk around the lake which starts in the car park.

## Longer walks

Follow the long distance path along the Blackwater River. This runs for about 23 miles (37 km) from Aldershot to Swallowfield, passing through the attractive Blackwater Valley along the way. There are also public footpath links north across farmland to nearby Ambarrow Court and Hill and Finchampstead Ridges.



Common frog, Rana temporaria

# Did you know...?

The lake is used for watersports including sailing and canoeing.



Great Crested Grebe, Podiceps cristatus

#### Wildlife

Horseshoe Lake supports a range of habitats, including open water, river, shingle island, grassland and scrub.

The island provides a suitable breeding refuge for specialist birds, such as black-headed gull, common tern and oystercatcher. Throughout the winter many species of waterfowl visit the lake including wigeon, gadwall, tufted duck and goosander.

Many insects and birds can be found in the scrub, trees and grassland surrounding the lake. Look out for gatekeeper and skipper butterflies and kestrels, finches and warblers.

#### Cattle

For several months during the spring and summer there are grazing cattle around the lake and meadows.

Dogs should be kept under close control, and preferably on a lead near cattle.