

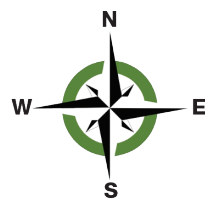
Shepherd Meadows



KEY:

- Circular route
- Public footpath
- Site path
- Park entrance
- P Parking
- i Information point
- FB Footbridge
- ☺ Toilets
- ☕ Café
- 🎠 Play area

For more information
Shepherd Meadows



Shepherd Meadows

Named after wildlife artist David Shepherd; Shepherd Meadows contains lowland meadow and woodland. Flower rich meadows are now very rare and this site is one of the last agriculturally unimproved areas on the Blackwater floodplain. The high nature conservation value of this site is recognised by its designation as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Facilities

- Car park
- Surfaced and grass paths
- Nearby Sandhurst Memorial Park has a café, skate park, playground, toilets and sports facilities.

Circular route

Explore Shepherd Meadows around a 1.6 mile (2.6km) loop which takes about an hour to complete.

Longer routes

Follow the long distance Blackwater River Path. This route runs for approximately 23 miles (37 km) from Aldershot to Swallowfield, passing through the attractive Blackwater Valley along the way.

Did you know...?

At the turn of the century, Shepherd Meadows was used by the Royal Military Academy in Sandhurst as a British Army training ground.



Grey wagtail,
Motacilla cinerea

Biodiversity at the meadows

During the spring and summer, the meadows form a carpet of colourful wildflowers, including meadow buttercups, devil's bit scabious, meadow thistle and birds-foot trefoil. Insects such as butterflies, dragonflies and grasshoppers are attracted to this floral display, with over 600 different species recorded on site.

A wide variety of birdlife is found across the site including species such as siskins, meadow pipits, thrushes, warblers, spotted flycatchers and woodpeckers. The river areas also attract waterfowl and wading birds.

The meadows and beyond

Adjacent to the north of Shepherd Meadows is Sandhurst Memorial Park, managed by Sandhurst Town Council. This provides facilities such as play parks, sport fields and a cafe.

The Blackwater Valley Path runs through Shepherd Meadows and along the Blackwater River corridor forming a 23 mile walking route following the Berkshire, Surrey and Hampshire borders. This entire corridor is managed by the Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership.

Blackwater River



Devil's bit scabious,
Succisa pratensis



Stag beetle, *Lucanus cervus*

Kingfisher, *Alcedo atthis*



Photo © Rob Solomon

