How to get there

By bus – the nearest bus stop is on Yorktown Road.

By car – access from Marshall Road, Sandhurst, GU47 0FJ.

On foot/cycle – from Sandhurst, go south on the right side of Marshall Road and turn right into the car park at the first roundabout.
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).

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.

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.

Facilities

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

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.

*Wheelchair access from the car park to the riverside along a tarmac path.

Did you know…?

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Devil’s bit scabious, *Succisa pratensis*

Grey Wagtail, *Motacilla cinerea*

Stag beetle, *Lucanus cervus*

Kingfisher, *Alcedo atthis*

Blackwater River

*Photo © Marlies Boydell
*Photo © Rob Solomon