

Blithfield Reservoir is a majestic 754 acre reservoir set in the lush, rolling Blithe Valley.

The estate is renowned for its wintering wildfowl and populations of wigeon and goosander. The area of woodland around the estate, which includes semi-natural ancient woodland, is also an important habitat for a variety of birds.

Three countryside walks meander their way around the northern peninsular – allowing you to enjoy its beauty without disturbing habitats. Such is its importance as a wildfowl habitat, that it has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest since 1968.

We hope you'll enjoy the Blithfield Walks, which include easily accessible paths suitable for wheelchair users. You're also welcome to bring dogs, but please keep them on a lead and clean up after them.

Blithfield Reservoir is located close to the historic village of Abbots Bromley which is famed for its annual Horn Dance and has several pubs.

The landowner, South Staffs Water, has worked closely with Natural England on a development plan for the site, as well as taking advice from organisations such as the West Midland Bird Club and the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, in order to provide the best habitat possible for the flora and fauna that is found here.



Blue Route

Approximate time to walk: 40 minutes

This walk is partially suitable for wheelchairs.

The Blue Route will take you through a mix of broadleaf and coniferous woodland including English oak, sycamore, maple, birch, Scots pine and larch.

Listen for the tapping of woodpeckers or the cry of a pheasant. In the winter, redwings, fieldfares, siskins and occasionally crossbills are to be found here.

Wander to The Dell at the far end of the walk, and you will find a bird feeder station and hide where you can spend time watching the many varieties of birds.



Red Route

Approximate time to walk: One hour

The Red Route begins in broadleaf woodland and traverses a field before crossing Tad Brook Bridge over the Tad Arm, which is one of the main feeds into the reservoir.

From there the boardwalk goes through wetland, which has become home to more than 50 types of plant such as tufted vetch, meadowsweet and bird's-foot-trefoil as well as being a popular haunt for colourful dragonflies, thanks to specially created dragonfly ponds.

At the end of the boardwalk you enter Broompit Plantation, where another bird feeder station and hide are to be found, along with the remains of the old marl pits used in building the reservoir dam.

Springtime visitors will also be greeted with the sight of a natural blue carpet in the bluebell wood.



Yellow Route

Approximate time to walk: 90 minutes

The Yellow Route continues on from the Blue Route as it crosses the drive at the stone trough. The walk cuts through a wildflower meadow before entering Stansley Wood, which is carpeted with bluebells in spring – choose the path through the trees for the best view.

The scenery changes dramatically past the 'petrified pond' as the reservoir comes into sight. Here walkers are directed into a field, as the reservoir track has no public access. On reaching Beech Tree Point, there is a bird hide and toilet. Re-entering Stansley Wood, the path returns to the wildflower meadow.

At the stone trough, the second half of the Blue Route can be used to return to the car park along the wheelchair-friendly path (via the Dell hide and feeder station) adding 20 minutes.





Facilities

FREE car park, toilets.

Opening times

Depends on the season (see notice display boards in the car park.) Please note there is no overnight parking or camping allowed.

Directions

From Abbots Bromley High Street head north towards Uttoxeter. Take the second left into Newton Hurst Lane, then after approximately three quarters of a mile, turn left into a drive signposted Blithfield Education Centre and walks.

Refreshments

There are a number of good pubs in Abbots Bromley.

Contact (office hours only)

Blithfield Estate Office
Blithfield Reservoir,
Waters Road,
Abbots Bromley,
WS15 3DU

Tel: 01283 841068


South Staffs Water
www.blithfield.com
www.south-staffs-water.co.uk

3198_082015


Blithfield
Reservoir Walks


South Staffs Water