

The Lodge reserve and gardens

Finding your way around

Woodpecker trail

1.9 miles | 1.5 hours

This lovely, varied walk crosses some steeper sections of the reserve. Look for butterflies and buzzing insects in summer; in winter enjoy large flocks of thrushes.

Follow the path on to Sandy Ridge, then wander along the edge of the acid grassland and take in high views to the south. Carry on through the woodland, listening for the distinctive "laugh" of green woodpeckers as you go – you might see one foraging on the ground for ants. When you reach the old heath, turn left and a sandy path will lead you around an open expanse of heather and gorse. Join the bridleway to return to the reserve entrance through the cool, shady wood. In spring, bluebells spread across the woodland floor.

Buzzard trail

1.5 miles | 1 hour

Discover the banks and ditches of an ancient Iron Age hill fort and try to imagine this heathland 2,000 years ago.

The path that runs parallel to the road from the reserve shop to the hill fort is even and level; keep a look out for ravens, kestrels and buzzards as you walk. In summer, enjoy the purple flowering heather on the heath and watch hobbies dashing in pursuit of dragonflies. After the hill fort, the path drops through a valley and becomes steep and uneven. Look out for the ponds we have created which are a hotspot for dragonflies and damselflies.

Nuthatch trail

1.5 miles | 1 hour

This trail gives a taste of all The Lodge has to offer. It's steep in places with lots of steps, up and down and then returning to the car park via the bridleway.

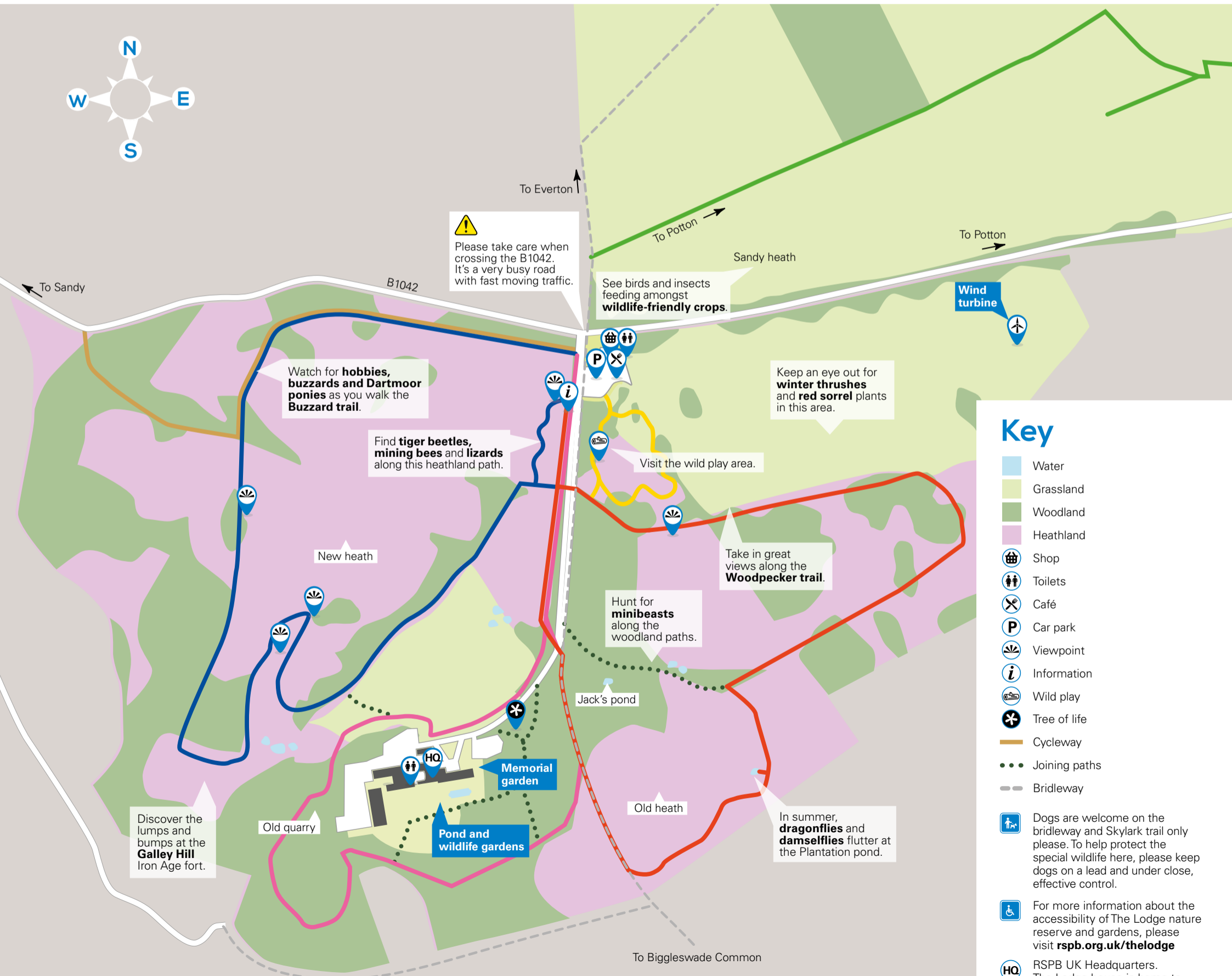
Check what wildlife has been seen today at our visitor information building. Head through the old wood, stopping to see what lives among the roots of fallen trees, and continue to enjoy a great view of The Lodge house. Take a short detour to admire the gardens, then return to the trail and carry on to the quarry. In spring, enjoy a chorus of birdsong as you walk. Look for nuthatches and spotted flycatchers in summer, flocks of finches in autumn, and feeding siskins and redpolls in winter.

Skylark trail



















1.5 miles | 1 hour

Our trail from the Gatehouse to the mast at Deepdale is 3 miles if you follow the alternative paths on neighbouring land to return to the Gatehouse. We manage our fields and parts of the sand quarry for wildlife, with support from Tarmac. This route can be enjoyed with your dog, but please follow the guidance and keep to the routes.

This trail can be enjoyed by everyone, not just by dog-walkers! There are acres of flowers for insects, and we grow special crops that provide a living bird table for yellowhammers, reed buntings and chaffinches in the winter. At the eastern end of our trail there are thrilling views over Sandy Heath quarry.



Key

-  Water
-  Grassland
-  Woodland
-  Heathland
-  Shop
-  Toilets
-  Café
-  Car park
-  Viewpoint
-  Information
-  Wild play
-  Tree of life
-  Cycleway
-  Joining paths
-  Bridleway
-  Dogs are welcome on the bridleway and Skylark trail only please. To help protect the special wildlife here, please keep dogs on a lead and under close, effective control.
-  For more information about the accessibility of The Lodge nature reserve and gardens, please visit rspb.org.uk/thelodge
-  RSPB UK Headquarters. The Lodge house is home to the offices of the RSPB's UK Headquarters, and is only open to staff and business visitors.