

The background features a dark, moody color palette of deep blues and purples. Overlaid on this are several thin, golden-yellow lines: a vertical line on the left, a vertical line on the right, and a horizontal line across the middle. A large, thin golden-yellow arch frames the central text. The text is white and centered.

# Nature & Wildlife Photography

Ian Tulloch

# Nature vs Wildlife Photography: What's the Difference?

## Nature Photography

- Images where living organisms are the primary subject matter. The story telling value of an image will normally be weighed more than the pictorial quality.
- Includes images taken with subjects in controlled conditions such as zoos, game parks, botanic gardens, aquaria and enclosures where the subjects are dependent on man for food.
- Excludes images featuring people or domestic animals or plants.
- Processing: global/ local adjustments, HDR, focus stacking. Montage is also permitted.

## Wildlife Photography

- Images with one or more living organisms free and unrestrained in a natural or adopted environment, photographed as a single image.
- No additions or removals of any component within the image as it is presented.

# 'The Night Raider' - Winner of WWOTY 2017



Won Animals in  
Environment Category

But subsequently  
disqualified as the anteater  
was deemed to be stuffed  
specimen

# Really Close Encounter with a Giant Anteater



Guyana 2015



# A Selection of My Nature Images Taken in the UK (2018 – 23)

- Macro Photography
  - Butterflies / Dragonflies / Other insects / Fungi
- Birds
- Mammals

# My Cameras (2006 - 14)



Panasonic Lumix Bridge Cameras

FZ18 → FZ32 → FZ80 → FZ330 → FZ1000



Ideal cameras for wildlife photography (up to x30 zoom) but limited by small sensor size and relatively poor low-light performance vs DSLRs

# My Cameras (2014 - 23)

Canon 70D → 80D → 90D → R7  
[All APS-C cropped sensors]

Canon R7  
mirrorless,  
APC-S  
cropped  
sensor



Canon R6  
mirrorless,  
full frame



Panasonic FZ2000 Bridge - a good  
all-rounder camera for all genres  
including nature photography



# Lenses & Accessories

Canon RF 100-500mm telephoto



Wimberley Plamp



Canon RF 100mm F2.6L macro



Lumimuse LED light





# Therfield Heath - Site of Special Scientific Interest

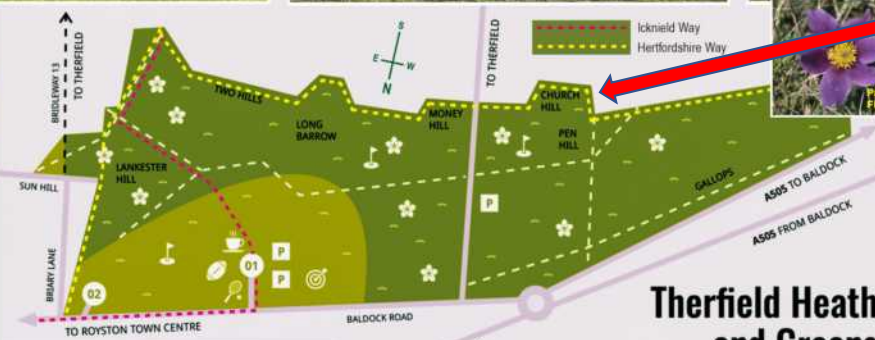
**Sun Hill Common** is designated as an Area of Community Value (AoCV). Volunteers help to manage the site for nature and recreation.



**Archaeology** Round Barrows on the Heath are the largest known example of their type in Hertfordshire.

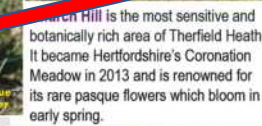


Skylark and Meadow Pipit can be heard singing across the Common. Care must be taken during the nesting season not to disturb these ground nesting birds



The Heath is 354 acres of Common Land, Nature Reserve and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The Greens and parcels of land are to be found in Therfield Village and the surrounding area.

- 01 HEATH SPORTSCLUB
- 02 GOLF CLUBHOUSE
- 03 PUB
- P PARKING
- ☕ REFRESHMENTS
- ✿ SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST
- FOOTPATHS
- ⛳ GOLF
- ⚽ RUGBY
- 🎾 TENNIS
- 🎯 ARCHERY



Chalk grassland habitat has become increasingly rare. Species that inhabit it thrive only in relatively dry, nutrient-poor soils. These characterise the site.



Church Hill

# Chalkhill Blue - Life Cycle

## Caterpillar Foodplant

The sole foodplant is Horseshoe Vetch (*Hippocrepis comosa*).

## Lifecycle



## Habitat

The foodplant and the butterfly are restricted to chalk and limestone grassland.

## Distribution

- Countries: England
- Restricted to southern England, but not in the far south-west
- Distribution Trend Since 1970's = -50%.



Male



Female

## Chalk Hill Blues



## Chalk Hill Blues Mating



# Adonis Blue Life Cycle

## Caterpillar Foodplant

The sole foodplant is Horseshoe Vetch (*Hippocrepis comosa*).

## Lifecycle



## Habitat

Dry chalk or limestone grassland with abundant foodplants in short turf, but slightly taller vegetation may be used in sheltered quarries. Most colonies occur on warm, south-facing slopes where favoured breeding areas are sheltered hollows (especially old chalk pits and quarries).

## Distribution

- Countries: England
- Restricted to southern England, but not in the far south-west
- Distribution Trend Since 1970's = -6%



# Adonis Blues



## Marbled Whites



## Dark-Green Fritillaries





# Brown Argus





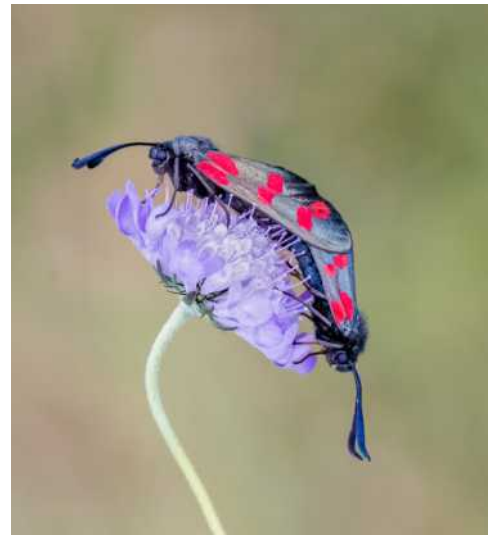
Meadow Grasshopper



Wasp Spider



Red Soldier Beetles



6-Spot Burnet Moths

# Paxton Pits Nature Reserve - Dragonflies

## Welcome to Paxton Pits Nature Reserve

75 hectares of lakes, meadow, grassland, scrub and woodland next to the River Great Ouse where you can enjoy a wealth of wildlife all year round. Whether you are painting the scenery with watercolours, birdwatching or walking the dog, we hope you enjoy your visit.

**WILDLIFE**

The mosaic of different habitats at Paxton Pits Nature Reserve supports a huge diversity of wildlife. This is reflected in its status as a Local Nature Reserve (LNRO) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

The Reserve is particularly known for its birdlife including breeding Cormorants, Nightingales in Spring, winter waterfowl and Hobbies in Summer. The variety of wildflowers include Bee Orchids, Common Spotted Orchids, Great Dodder and Purple Toothwort and a large variety of butterflies and dragonflies can also be seen in the summer months. Mammals using the Reserve include Otters, Harvest Mice, Foxes, Badgers and Muntjac Deer.

The Rangers and local volunteer experts carry out surveying and monitoring of the wildlife to help guide management of the Reserve's habitats. The latest wildlife sightings can be found in the Visitors' Centre and at [www.paxton-pits.org.uk](http://www.paxton-pits.org.uk).

**JOIN THE FRIENDS OF PAXTON PITS NATURE RESERVE**

Enjoyed your visit? Then why not help to make Paxton Pits a better place for wildlife and people. The Friends raise funds, promote the Reserve and help with valuable conservation work. Become a member of the Friends and support your Local Nature Reserve. Ask in the Visitors' Centre for more information.

You can find out more about the wildlife at Paxton Pits Nature Reserve, forthcoming events and lots more from the following websites:  
[www.paxton-pits.org.uk](http://www.paxton-pits.org.uk)  
[www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk](http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk)

**FOLLOW WELL MARKED TRAILS**

The trails and paths at Paxton Pits Nature Reserve are designated by coloured waymarks. Pictures of these waymarks are shown below. On the map the paths have been coloured the same as the waymarks to help you plan your route. Please respect the Nature Reserve by staying on the paths and keeping your dog under control.

There are 2 circular trails with numbered posts and coloured waymarks which start from the car park.

**THE HERON TRAIL**  
 2.96k (2 miles) – 1.5 hours  
 A circular walk past lakes, through woodland and along the river bank with two bird holes to view the water birds. Nightingales can be seen or heard between April and June. The first mile is a hard-surface track suitable for wheelchairs, pushchairs and all season walking. Most manual wheelchairs and pushchairs can gain access using a RACAP key (available from the Visitors' Centre).

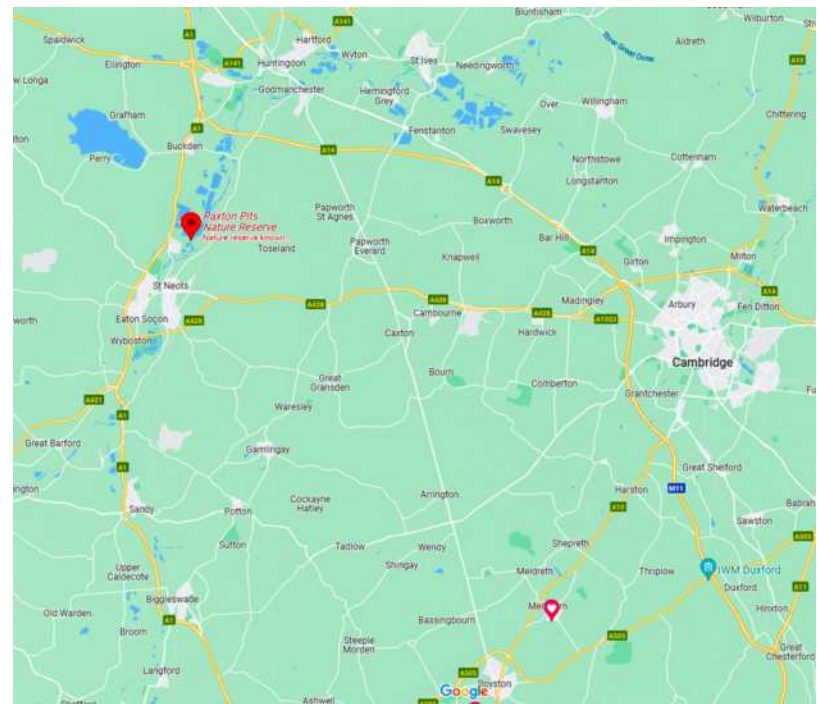
**THE MEADOW TRAIL**  
 1.48k (1.5 miles) – 1 hour  
 A circular walk through meadows and around lakes. It is especially good for Cuckoos and Cetti Warblers as well as wild flowers in Spring and Summer and dragonflies on sunny days. In early Summer the heather and meadows are full of Wild Roses and Hawthorn blossom. Some of the paths become quite muddy in winter and during wet weather.

**PLAN YOUR OWN ROUTE**

You can also plan your own walk around the Reserve using the River Trail and Permissive Paths. These link up with the Heron and Meadow Trails and together can be used to make a variety of walks of up to 4k (4 miles) in length.

**PERMISSIVE PATHS**

**THE RIVER TRAIL**  
 This trail follows the route of the Ouse Valley Way.



# Paxton Pits Nature Reserve - Dragons & Damselfs



Scare Chaser



Broad-Bodied Chaser



4-Spotted Chaser

Variable Damselfly



Banded Demoiselle

# Paxton Pits Nature Reserve - Dragonflies Mating



Scarce Chasers



Blue-Tailed Damselflies

## Paxton Pits Nature Reserve - Dragonflies



Common Darter



Norfolk Hawker

## Common Darters with Dew Drops



## Common Darter - Extreme Macro



Panasonic FZ2000 +Raynox 150 macro  
Focus Stack (40 images) in camera  
f2.8, 1/50s at ISO 200



# Migrant Hawker



Canon 90D + 100-400mm  
f5.6, 1/2000s, ISO200

# Emperor Dragonfly Ovipositing



Digiscoped in 2006  
Casio EX Z1000 (10.4MP) and spotting  
telescope

Originally processed in Picasa  
but updated in LR / Topaz Sharpen

# Epping Forest - Fungi in October





Flies Egg-Laying on Porcelain Fungus



Milkcap Fungus



Common Stinkhorn



Yellow Staghorn

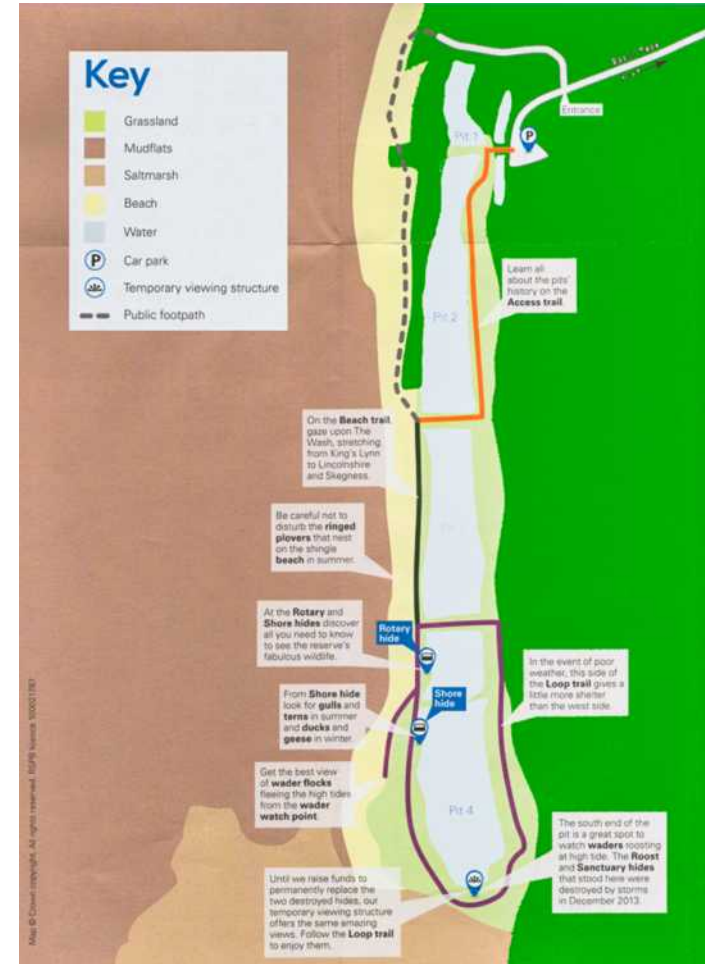


Clustered Bonnets

# RSPB Snettisham - Wading Bird Spectaculars



RSPB Snettisham is on the coast north of HM The Queen's Sandringham estate



# Wader Spectaculars in 2023



## RSPB Snettisham Spectaculars 2023

We have handpicked these dates and times for you to observe the best parts of the spectacles.

The time given is when to leave the RSPB car park (not the time of high tide).

### Whirling Waders:

January 2023	February 2023	March 2023	April 2023
No Spectaculars	Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup> 6.00am Thu 23 <sup>rd</sup> 6.45am	Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup> 5.00am Thu 23 <sup>rd</sup> 5.30am Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> 6.00am	Wed 19 <sup>th</sup> 4.45pm Thu 20 <sup>th</sup> 5.30pm Fri 21 <sup>st</sup> 6.00pm
May 2023	June 2023	July 2023	August 2023
No Spectaculars	No Spectaculars	Fri 7 <sup>th</sup> 8.00am Sat 8 <sup>th</sup> 8.45am	Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup> 5.30am Thu 3 <sup>rd</sup> 6.00am Fri 4 <sup>th</sup> 6.45am Sat 5 <sup>th</sup> 7.15am Sun 6 <sup>th</sup> 8.00am Mon 7 <sup>th</sup> 9.00am Th 31 <sup>st</sup> 5.00am and 6.00pm
September 2023	October 2023	November 2023	December 2023
Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> 5.30am Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup> 6.00am Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup> 6.45am Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> 7.30am Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> 8.30am Th 28 <sup>th</sup> 5.00pm	Sun 1 <sup>st</sup> 5.30am Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> 6.15am Tues 3 <sup>rd</sup> 7.30am	Wed 1 <sup>st</sup> 6.15am	No Spectaculars

### Pink-footed geese:

November 2022	December 2022	January 2023
14 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup> 6.30am	1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> 6.30am 14 <sup>th</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> 7.00am

The RSPB is a registered charity in England & Wales 207076, in Scotland SC037654

Best times are Sept/Oct and Feb/Mar when wader numbers are highest



## Waders Take-Off with Incoming Tide



# Wader Murmuration





Knot



Black-Tailed Godwit



# Knots & Bar-Tailed Godwits



# Spectaculars are Very Popular Events



# Waders Roosting on Lagoon



# Roosting Knots



## Roosting / Flying Waders





## Roosting / Flying Waders



## Roosting Waders (video)





# Mammals & Birds - January 2023



SCOTTISH PHOTOGRAPHY HIDES

Home Hides Workshops Gallery About Contact

## The UK's #1 Wildlife Photography Hides.

We offer award-winning wildlife photography hides, to fellow nature enthusiasts. Above all, our photography hides have been designed to cater for all abilities.

[See All Hides](#)

 BBC's Autumnwatch



# Male Sparrowhawk



# Great-Spotted Woodpecker (male & female)



# Jay



# Otter Feeding





## Red Squirrels



# Pine Marten



# Kingfisher



# Water Rail

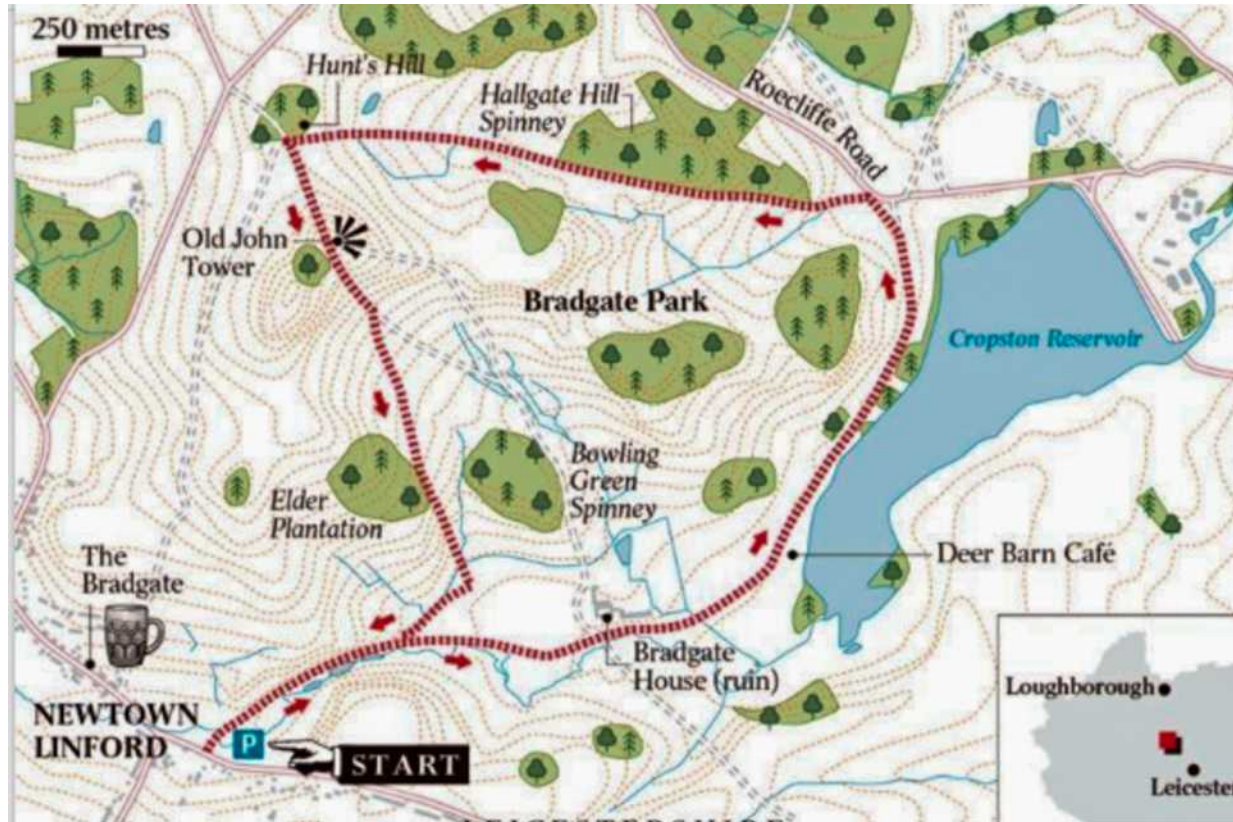


# Squabbling Chaffinches



Canon R6 +100-500mm  
f5.6, 1/2000s at ISO6400

# Deer at Bradgate Park, Leicestershire



A Good Walk: Bradgate Park, Leicestershire

[Visit](#)

# Red Deer



# Red Deer





# Red Deer



# Red Deer



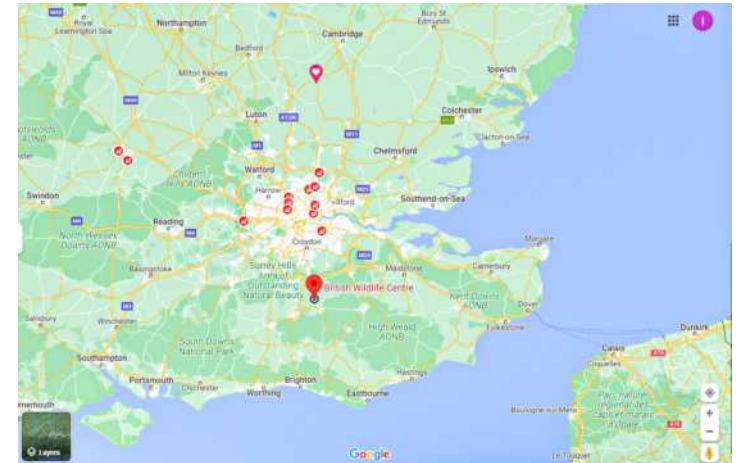
# Fallow Deer



# Fallow Deer



# British Wildlife Centre



- Over 40 bird and mammal species
- Photography days

# Red Fox



# Scottish Wild Cat



# Harvest Mouse





# Owls





Otter



Hedgehog

## Weasel & Polecat



# My Top Tips for Wildlife Photography

1. Get to know the wildlife in the local area (garden / nature reserves / Summer programme events)
2. Develop your fieldcraft skills
3. Know your optimal camera settings for different subjects (use customised settings)
4. Shoot subjects at eye level and ensure eyes are in sharp focus
5. Use light to your advantage - early morning and evening are usually best
6. Try to capture some behaviour eg mating, fighting, feeding