



Spot birds and wildlife at scenic

A man-made lake in North Somerset is now a beautiful nature reserve with an abundance of wildlife and habitats.

Walk information

Distance:
about 1 mile

Difficulty:
easy – a level, fully-accessible gravel path runs around Backwell Lake

Duration:
30 mins at a very leisurely pace to enjoy the scenery. Lots of public rights of way run around Backwell so it will be easy to make a longer route if you want to, such as walking up Backwell Hill, to the south-east of Backwell, to see the Jubilee Stone.

Map:
OS Explorer 154

How to get there

Start at map ref: ST 478695

Car:
There is a car park at Backwell Lake, just off Station Road

Train:
The lake is next to Nailsea and Backwell train station



Take a short stroll around Backwell Lake to enjoy the scenic views.

Backwell Lake was constructed in the 1970s as a balancing pond, to store surface water running from housing estates in Nailsea during times of heavy rainfall.

Since its construction it has developed into an important wildlife habitat and is now a designated local nature reserve.

The site is managed by Wessex Water, which works with local volunteers to conserve and enhance the wildlife.

This has included changing how the grass is managed to help wildflowers grow.

Backwell Lake supports more than 10 species of birds and the lake is important for wildfowl, especially during winter.

On your way round, also look out for coot, moorhen, swift, cormorant, mute swan, tufted duck and grey heron among others.

Insects thrive at the lake which, in turn, means it is a foraging area for bats. These can be seen feeding at dawn and dusk.

At least 19 species of common and rare dragonflies have been recorded here, including the scarce chaser, southern hawk and broad bodied chaser.

Backwell Lake



© Crown copyright and database rights 2017 Ordnance Survey 100023397. You are not permitted to copy, sub-license, distribute or sell this data to third parties in any form.

This simple walk follows the gravel path around the lake. There are plenty of benches to sit and enjoy the view.



Code of conduct

- fishing, cycling and swimming is not allowed
- children must be supervised at all times
- visitors should keep a safe distance from the water
- dogs must be kept on leads and their waste disposed of in on-site bins
- litter should be placed in bins or taken home
- the car park must only be used by visitors of the lake.

www.wessexwater.co.uk