

Fishing Club

### Local clubs and activities

There is an interesting range of activities at Branston Water Park to suit everyone from walks to bird-watching.

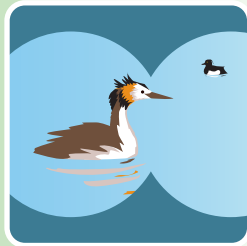
There are a number of active clubs including : fishing, model-boating and the Wildlife Watch Group run by Staffordshire Wildlife Trust for children interested in wildlife.



Model-boat club

For further information please contact Tel.01283 508573

- Please respect this special place so that everyone can enjoy it.
- Admire the wildflowers, but please don't stray too far from the paths so as not to disturb sensitive wildlife habitats.
- Please put litter in bins provided.
- Dogs must be kept on leads at all times throughout the site. It is an offence not to clean up after your dog. You could be prosecuted and fined up to a maximum of £1,000.



wildlife watch group

- For your safety, **WARNING THE WATER IS DANGEROUS**, Swimming, paddling, and launching of unauthorised craft, including inflatables is not permitted.

## How to find Branston Water Park

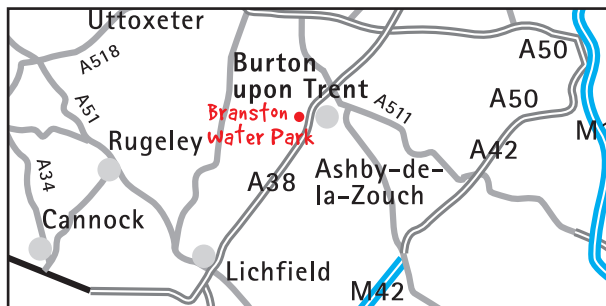
BWP is situated off the A38 near Burton upon Trent in Staffordshire.

If you would like to visit by car, access is from the A38 northbound between Barton under Needwood and Burton. Follow the brown tourist signs. Once in the Park, you will find there is adequate parking, some with views across the open-water where you can sit and watch the bird-life or enjoy a picnic.

For further information about the site, other walks leaflet or initiatives in the area please contact us at:  
 East Staffordshire Borough Council  
 Community Services  
 Parks and Countryside Section  
 Midland Grain Warehouse  
 Derby Street  
 Burton upon Trent  
 Staffordshire DE14 2JJ



Or telephone 01283 508573



### Site opening times

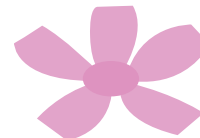
Summer (April-September) open everyday 8am-9pm.  
Winter (October-March) open everyday 8am-5pm

### Visitor centre opening times

Summer (April-September) open everyday 8am-9pm.  
Winter (October-March) open only at weekends and bank holidays 8am-5pm

Free admission and car-parking

Supported by the Countryside Agency through the DEFRA Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund



## Information for Visitors

# Branston Water Park



COMMUNITY SERVICES

www.eaststaffsbc.gov.uk

# Welcome to

## Branston Water Park

Branston Water Park is a 40 acre lake surrounded by woodland, wetland, and wildflower meadow that supports a rich variety of wildlife. It is one of East Staffordshire's key sites and a popular wildlife and recreational resource for local residents and visitors alike.

East Staffordshire Borough Council's Parks and Countryside Section manage the site for the benefit of wildlife and public enjoyment.

There is a small visitor centre with a range of informative displays on wildlife and the history of the site. Facilities include picnic areas, a vantage point from where you can see panoramic views of the site, a children's play-area, a 1-mile circular nature trail around the lake that follows flat, well-surfaced paths, and ample car-parking. There are also toilets including a disabled toilet. The site is also the starting point for two circular walks covered by separate leaflets produced by the Borough Council.

### Enjoy your visit!

### The history of the park

Branston Water Park is one in a series of gravel pits located within the Trent River Valley. The river has meandered across the floodplain for thousands of years depositing sand and gravel.

In the 1930s, sand and gravel extraction started on what was previously farmland and hedgerows. Water was pumped out of the pits, while the work took place. However, once extraction ceased in the 1950s the high water table near the River Trent soon flooded the pits with water.

Since then, the site has colonised naturally, and now supports a range of valuable habitats and wildlife. Gravel extraction companies and wildlife organisations are now working together to achieve net benefits for wildlife and recreation through the restoration of other gravel pits in the Trent River Valley through projects such as the 'Central Rivers Initiative' and 'On Trent Initiative'.

There have been some interesting archaeological finds over the years. During the operations in 1943, a human skull and other bones were unearthed. Experts revealed that the remains were those of a 23 year old girl who had lived 10,000 years ago.

In 1960, the tooth of a mammoth was also discovered – imagine what Branston Water Park looked like when these beasts roamed the land!



### Wildlife and habitats

Branston Water Park is an important wetland site attracting numerous birds, aquatic animals, and other wildlife by the availability of freshwater and by the associated lush grassland and woodland. Explore the site and discover its fascinating wildlife.

### Reedbed

The reedbed is one of the largest in Staffordshire and a habitat of national and local importance due to its declining status. The reedbed is dominated by common reed that supports a wide range of species such as reed warblers, dragonflies, and damselflies. In the summer, dragonfly and damselfly nymphs climb up the stems and emerge from their larval cases taking flight as beautifully coloured adults. Without management, a reedbed will dry out and turn to woodland, we therefore ensure that the reedbed is properly managed to maintain its wildlife value, for example by removing trees spreading into the reedbed.

### Wildflower meadow

The wildflower meadow grassland is one of the most rapidly disappearing habitats in the UK. Our methods of cutting and removing the cuttings allow our grassland to thrive attracting a variety of insects, amphibians, and mammals to the site. In spring and summer, the wildflower meadow looks its best. Look out for orange tip butterflies on cuckoo flower and common blue butterflies on vetches.

### Native woodlands

We also sensitively manage the native woodlands on the site to ensure their long-term health. Many plants and animals rely on the woodlands for their continued survival. Honeysuckle climbs high into the trees and the 'teacher-teacher' of the great tit can often be heard as you walk through. During the winter, the woodland is an excellent place for fungi with oyster mushrooms and shaggy ink caps.

