

History & Heritage

People have lived here ever since the Iron Age, but for most of known history the area has been farmland. In the 19th century the railway came with the mainline along the eastern edge and a branch line through the centre, but life remained much as before until 1955 when major scale gravel extraction started. This was followed by filling of some of the pits with pulverised fuel ash and then by restoration to nature conservation.

Landscape & Habitats

Some of the more open areas, notably Barton Fields and Nyatt, remain as unimproved grassland. The Thames runs alongside, much as ever. But most of the landscape has been shaped by gravel activity. Thrupp and Orchard lakes are the result of water filling naturally into gravel pits. Where pits were instead filled with ash quite new habitats have been created. The diversity as well as the richness of these habitats makes the area special.

Wildlife

Wildlife is as diverse as the habitats. Cormorants sun themselves on lake islands. Damselflies rise from the ponds, where newts and toads also lurk. In shrubs warblers are to be heard and kingfishers to be seen when they foray out. On areas filled with ash there are now ground nesting lapwings and a profusion of orchids in the late Spring. You might also spy something rarer such as an otter, a bittern or a glossy ibis.

Access & Walking

You can walk along the NCN5 cycletrack and the other rights of way and permissive paths shown on the map. These include the Thames Path, a circular walk round Thrupp and Bullfield Lakes and a path running all the way from the heart of the area to Radley village. It is planned to open up further paths with the agreement of landowners and details will be kept up to date on the RLT website.

Dos & Don'ts

For the sake of wildlife and the pleasure of all visitors we ask that you follow these simple rules.

- Don't leave litter
- Stick to marked paths
- Don't cycle except on the NCN 5 cycletrack
- Be considerate to wildlife and other visitors
- No camping, bbqs or fires
- Keep dogs under control and clean up after them (in some areas you will be asked to keep dogs on leads)

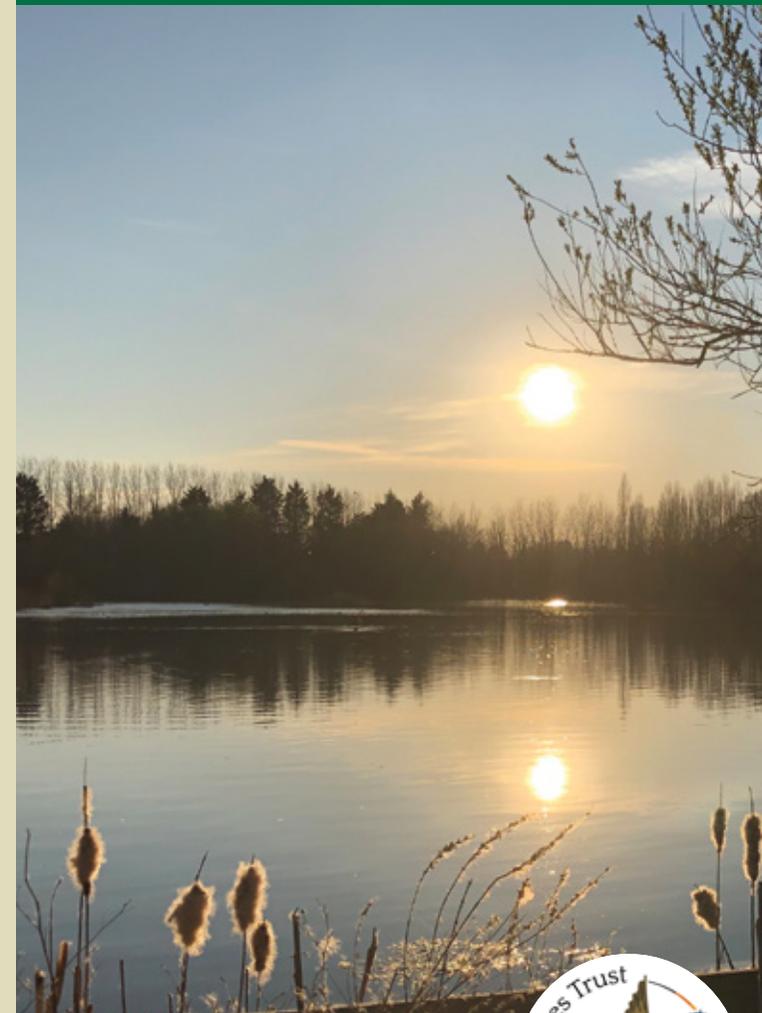
email: info@radleylakestrust.org

To find out more or to get involved visit radleylakestrust.org or scan the QR code below. Keep up to date on social media and post your photos.



The Radley Lakes Trust is a registered charity
No. 1192259

Welcome to
**Radley
Lakes**



A Haven For All



The Radley Lakes area, once scarred by gravel workings, is now an exceptional haven for all, tranquil and rich in wildlife. Enjoy, but do respect the natural life and other visitors.

You will see a great diversity of landscapes, including the River Thames, lakes and ponds of all sizes, woodland, marsh and grassland. These in turn provide habitats for a great variety of flora and fauna.

There are a range of places and paths where you can walk, run, or just sit and ponder the surroundings.

The Radley Lakes Trust is working with landowners and the local community to protect and enhance the area, to increase understanding of what is here and to improve access.

We hope to add more paths, creating a wider range of walks and improving links between locations. Visit our website radleylakestrust.org for the latest information. You will find updates about what is happening and ways to support our work.



For directions, look out for the 'RLT' on signs and waymarkers.



- Habitats**
- Water
 - Reed Bed
 - Marsh/Wet Woodland
 - Plantation
 - Natural Woodland
 - Grassland/Scrub

- Footpaths & cycle routes**
- Footpath/Cycle route NCN 5
 - Footpath Rights of Way
 - Footpath Permissive Routes

i Information Point