





Bartley Heath, Warnborough Greens and Hook Common

A large area of heathland, grassland and woodland, with many areas being restored to heathland.



Habitat Type	<i>Heath, woodland and grassland with fens</i>	
Size of Reserve	<i>163 hectares / 402 acres</i>	
Special Features	SSSI    	
OS Map Number	<i>186</i>	
Grid Reference	<i>Bartley Heath SU 730 534 Hook Common SU 720 535 Warnborough Greens SU 730 520</i>	
Nearest Town	<i>Hook - 0.5 mile</i>	
Nearest Rail Station	<i>Hook - 0.5 mile</i>	
Tourist Information	<i>Basingstoke 01256 817618</i>	
Best Time to Visit	<i>Bartley Heath</i>	<i>Summer - flowers Autumn - fungi</i>
	<i>Warnborough Greens</i>	<i>Spring / summer - flowers</i>
	<i>Hook Common</i>	<i>Being restored</i>

HOW TO GET THERE

Bartley Heath

From the M3 exit at Junction 5 and you're there! For Bartley Heath take the B3349 towards Hook and the entrance and car park is 250m on your right.

Bus routes: the 200 bus between Basingstoke and Camberly stops at the bus stop near the Lord Derby on Mill Lane.

Warnborough Greens

From Junction 5 take the A287 towards Farnham, turn right at the roundabout and take the first right. There is a small space for parking on the left at the north east end of the reserve, opposite The Willows. Parking is not permitted on the Greens.

Bus routes: the 200 bus between Basingstoke and Camberly stops at the bus stop at Prior's Corner on Queen's Road.

Hook Common

From Junction 5 of the M3 take the A287 towards Newnham, there is parking in the lay-by on the left, the common is on both sides of the road.

Bus routes: the 430, 200 and 30 buses from Farnborough to Basingstoke all stop at the bus stop near the Dorchester Arms on London Road.

ACCESS

All three areas are open access all year round. There are a few surfaced paths on Bartley Heath, although the majority of the site is not surfaced. Warnborough Greens have no marked paths and can be wet in areas. Hook Common has an ongoing restoration programme so please contact the Trust for the latest access information.

Bartley Heath, Warnborough Greens and Hook Common continued

SITE DESCRIPTION

Bartley Heath

Bartley Heath and Hook Common were once part of one large common of heathland, grassland and woodland used by local people for grazing their livestock and other commoning activities. As the practice of grazing died out the grasslands became ranker and trees, particularly Birch, began to grow. These trees shaded out the specialist heathland plants with a subsequent reduction of associated animals. Bartley Heath has been undergoing restoration management for the last ten years and with the clearance of trees and grazing of New Forest ponies the heathland plants and animals are returning, making it possible to walk once more over an open landscape.

Hook Common

The Trust has recently signed a long term lease for this large area of derelict heath and woodland. An extensive programme of restoration will now be undertaken with the aim of re-establishing the heathland habitat.

Warnborough Greens

Warnborough Greens are two flower-rich wet meadows fed by the beautiful chalk River Whitewater. The calcareous water makes these fens suitable for a variety of unusual wetland species such as Early and Southern Marsh orchid. These meadows are managed by annual grazing with ponies and cattle.

WILDLIFE

Bartley Heath

- The blue flowers of the rare Marsh Gentian can be seen scattered amongst Lousewort and Sneezewort over the heath in late summer.
- Ruddy Darter and many other dragonflies can be seen over the water-filled gravel workings.

- The wet heath areas support species such as Tree Pipits.

Hook Common

- Birch and Oak woodland with a few open areas where heath plants can still be found. There used to be strong populations of Marsh Gentian, and it is hoped that they will return with appropriate management.

Warnborough Greens

- Warnborough Greens support large populations of Early and Southern Marsh orchids and the rare Slender Spike-rush.

OTHER

- Prior to the re-introduction of grazing at Hook Common a great deal of work needs to be carried out to ensure that the area is suitable for livestock.
- Where the commons have been split into small fragments these are left to mature into woodland.

NEARBY SITES OF INTEREST

Greywell Moors Wildlife Reserve

- see page 64

A nationally important fen and wet woodland with many rare plants.

Whitehouse Meadow Wildlife Reserve

- see page 140

A remnant wet meadow saved from surrounding development.

Basingstoke Canal Flashes Wildlife Reserve

- see page 29

Three small wildlife-rich shallow wetlands.

Mapledurwell Fen Wildlife Reserve

- see page 88

An area of wet fen, rich in wildlife.