Rushy Common Nature Reserve and Tar Lakes

Welcome to Rushy Common Nature Reserve and Tar Lakes, a 30ha site that is being managed by Smiths Bletchington for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Rushy Common Nature Reserve

Rushy Common was designed as a place of tranquillity for both wildlife and wildlife watchers so access is limited to the bird hide, for which a key can be purchased from the project office. The hide is open to keyholders at all times and the key will also enable you to visit other hides in the Lower Windrush Valley Project area.

The bird hide is located on the southern shore and offers excellent views across the reserve. The hide is wheelchair accessible and has special viewing windows for wheelchair users.

Circular Walks from Rushy Common

Rushy Common car park provides a good starting point for circular walks in the wider area. A 3 mile circuit offers a gentle walk beside the River Windrush or follow a 3 mile path north to South Leigh to see the medieval wall paintings in the church of St James the Great.

Tar Lakes

Tar Lakes has a mixture of gravel surfaced and grass paths that link into the wider network of public rights of way.

The circuit round Tar Lake has been designed for easy access with a surfaced path suitable for wheelchair users and pushchairs. There are two seating areas and perching posts every 100 metres.

There is a mown grass path round the two smaller lakes where most of the grass will only be cut once a year to encourage the growth of wild flowers.

Shrubs have been planted and plants such as nettles and brambles will be left in places to create a wilder space that will provide good feeding habitat and shelter for a wide variety of wildlife, especially invertebrates.

In the summer look out for ox-eye daisies and tufted vetch; meadow brown and gatekeeper butterflies and the dragonflies and damselflies that all thrive here.

Key

- Windrush Path - Hardwick to Witney & vice versa
- Paths around Tar Lakes 1.25km / 0.8mile
- Public footpath
- Public Bridleway
- Parking
- Information Board
- Bus Stop

OS Maps:
Explorer 180
Landranger 164

For further information or to report any problems please contact the project office at Signal Court, Old Station Way, Eynsham, OX29 4TL
Tel: 01865 815426

Rushy Common and Tar Lakes are part of Smiths’ Gill Mill Quarry complex and are managed by Smiths Bletchington in partnership with the Lower Windrush Valley Project.