

MANAGEMENT



GRASSHOPPER

Chard Reservoir Local Nature Reserve is a special site that requires a range of management techniques. The habitats on site vary from native woodlands to wildflower meadows, open water to reed beds. Each area has very different management requirements and the ranger is kept busy conserving this important array of species. In the woodlands we have greatly reduced the exotic species (Laurel and Rhododendron) in an effort to return to a more balanced native woodland. The meadows are cut annually and no chemical fertilisers

are used. This approach has left us with an impressive display of marsh orchids in the summer months. The reed beds are helped to expand by reducing the amount of willow that out shades them.

Floating rafts have been added to the open water of the reservoir to provide resting and nesting places for birds, cormorants will often be seen hanging their wings out to dry.

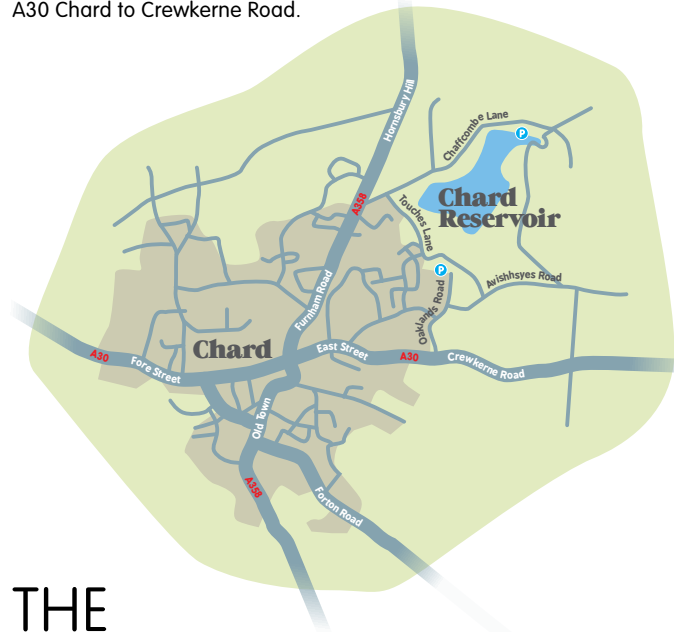
The meadows in Summer are alive with wildlife. Visit the buttercup meadow in June to see a carpet of Marsh Orchids. In July these unimproved meadows support healthy populations of Marbled White butterflies, plus Skipper butterflies and some Blues. Throughout the Summer both dragon and damselflies can be seen zooming over the grasslands and water.



SANDPIPER

LOCATION

Chard Reservoir Local Nature Reserve is situated on the North East of Chard Town Centre. The Car Park is situated at the end of Oaklands Avenue which is off the A30 Chard to Crewkerne Road.



THE COUNTRYSIDE SERVICE

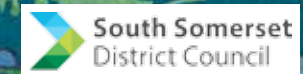
Chard Reservoir Local Nature Reserve is owned and managed by South Somerset District Council. A countryside ranger works from the Nature Reserve and will be pleased to help and advise visitors. A series of events and walks run across South Somerset's countryside sites each year; to receive more information about these, or any other aspect of the countryside service please call 01935 462462 or email countryside@southsomerset.gov.uk SSDC, The Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil, Somerset BA20 2HT



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CHARD RESERVOIR

LOCAL NATURE RESERVE



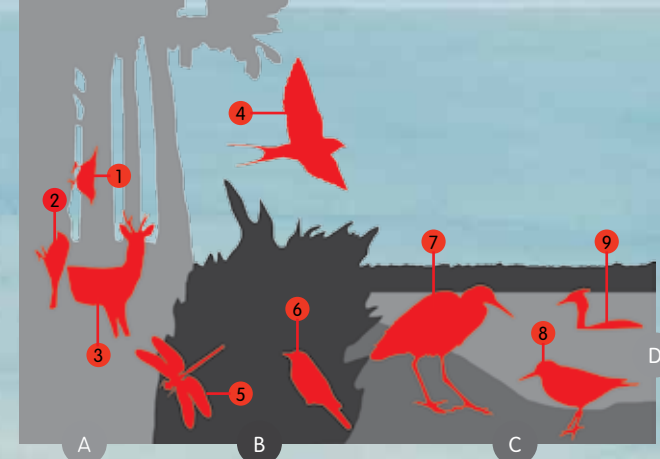
WILDLIFE

A. WOODLAND

The woodlands support a varied range of wildlife including many birds. Nuthatch, Goldcrest and Tree Creeper are just a few of the birds you should find while walking through the woods. Spring is always a good time for bird watching with the migrant species present. Pick up a copy of the Chard Reservoir bird watching leaflet for more information. In the summer the unimproved meadows are well worth a visit; ox eye daisies, marsh orchids and yarrow all make for a beautiful floral display.

B. REED BEDS

During the breeding season reed beds can shelter several pairs of Reed Warblers. As we improve these habitats (by expanding their area) we hope that other species will visit. On hot summer night's bats fly over the reeds catching their prey. Reed beds are threatened habitats in the UK and because of this we prioritise their conservation at the reservoir.



C. MARGINAL MUD

When the water is lowered in the late summer it's worth looking out for birds returning south after breeding, especially wading birds. It's important for migrating birds like Green Sandpiper and Common Sandpiper to fuel up for their long journeys to their wintering grounds. These birds will feed on small crustacea and worms in the mud at the edge of the reservoir.

1. Nuthatch
2. Tree Creeper
3. Roe Deer
4. Barn Swallow
5. Southern Hawker Dragonfly
6. Reed Warbler
7. Little Egret
8. Common Sandpiper
9. Great-crested Grebe

D. OPEN WATER

On open water you should see some birds all year round; including Swallows and Martins in the spring. During winter cold snaps you may see large numbers of wildfowl. Look out for Little Egret and Grebes which have become much more common in the last few years.



CHARD RESERVOIR



NUTHATCH

LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

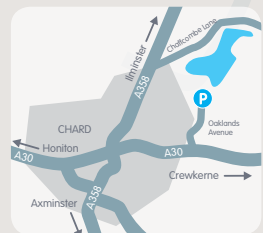
Chard Reservoir Local Nature Reserve is an 88 acre open water, woodland and meadow site. The core of the reserve is a large reservoir that is home to a great range of wildfowl and other wildlife, both native and visiting.

The site is a haven for birdwatchers, anglers and walkers. The outer wildflower meadows are excellent examples of unimproved grassland awash with orchids and alive with insects in the summer months.

The woodland that edges the reservoir itself is home to many species and is managed to maintain that diversity. A winding surfaced path through the woodlands, with causeways over the wetter areas, is a great way to explore the site and see wildlife.

The reservoir is stocked with carp and anglers buy tickets to fish. Events are arranged throughout the year including walks, talks and volunteer tasks.

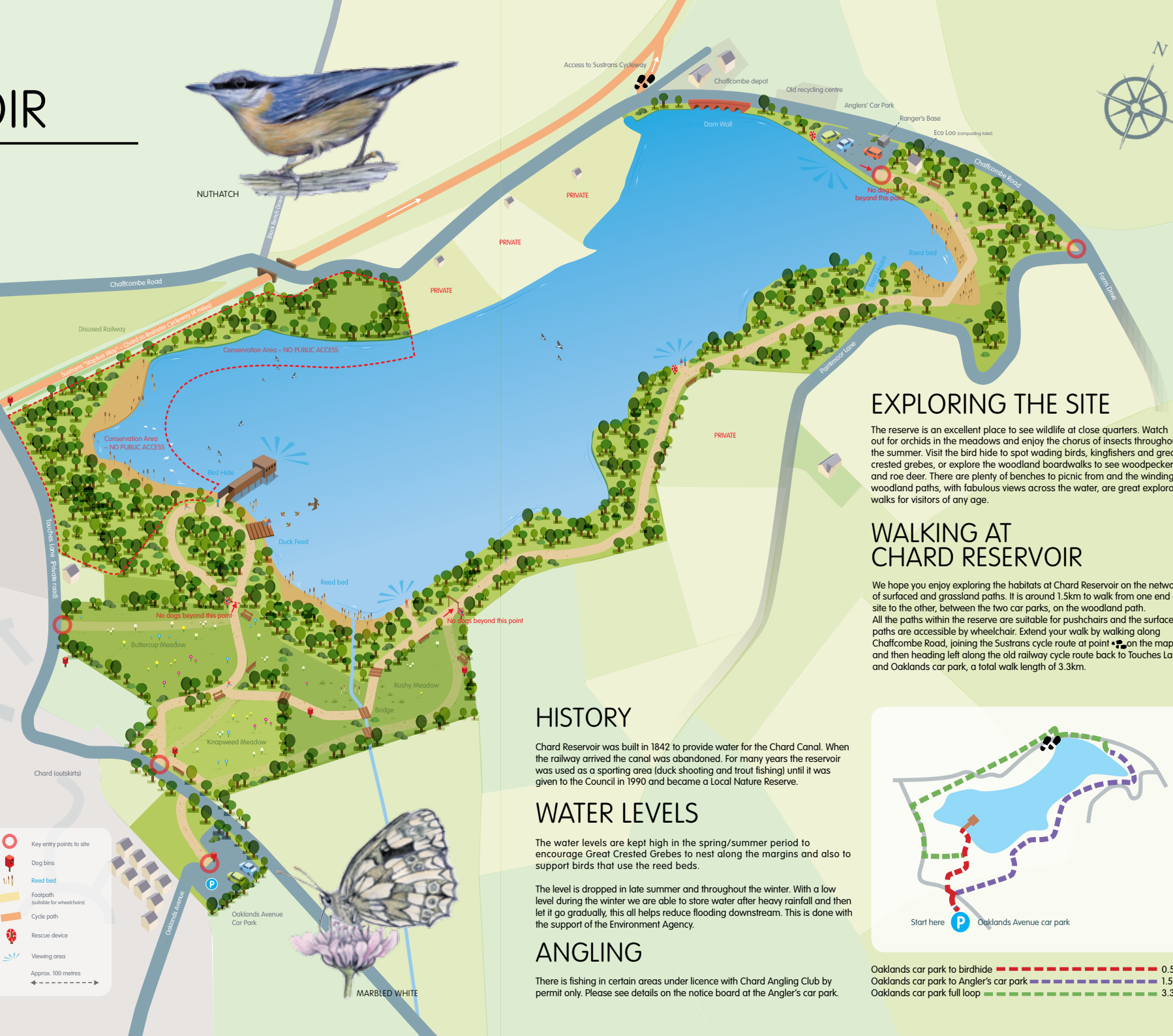
For those that want to help manage the site an active volunteer team runs every Friday carrying out tasks such as reed bed management and woodland maintenance.



	Key entry points to site
	Dog bins
	Reed bed
	Footpath (suitable for wheelchairs)
	Cycle path
	Rescue device
	Viewing area
Approx. 100 metres	



MARBLED WHITE



EXPLORING THE SITE

The reserve is an excellent place to see wildlife at close quarters. Watch out for orchids in the meadows and enjoy the chorus of insects throughout the summer. Visit the bird hide to spot wading birds, kingfishers and great crested grebes, or explore the woodland boardwalks to see woodpeckers and roe deer. There are plenty of benches to picnic from and the winding woodland paths, with fabulous views across the water, are great exploratory walks for visitors of any age.

WALKING AT CHARD RESERVOIR

We hope you enjoy exploring the habitats at Chard Reservoir on the network of surfaced and grassland paths. It is around 1.5km to walk from one end of site to the other, between the two car parks, on the woodland path. All the paths within the reserve are suitable for pushchairs and the surfaced paths are accessible by wheelchair. Extend your walk by walking along Chaffcombe Road, joining the Sustrans cycle route at point ● on the map and then heading left along the old railway cycle route back to Touches Lane and Oaklands car park, a total walk length of 3.3km.

HISTORY

Chard Reservoir was built in 1842 to provide water for the Chard Canal. When the railway arrived the canal was abandoned. For many years the reservoir was used as a sporting area (duck shooting and trout fishing) until it was given to the Council in 1990 and became a Local Nature Reserve.

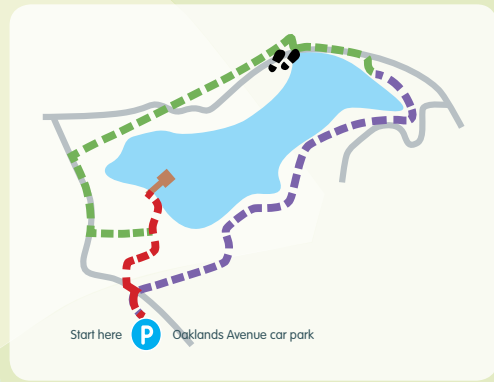
WATER LEVELS

The water levels are kept high in the spring/summer period to encourage Great Crested Grebes to nest along the margins and also to support birds that use the reed beds.

The level is dropped in late summer and throughout the winter. With a low level during the winter we are able to store water after heavy rainfall and then let it go gradually, this all helps reduce flooding downstream. This is done with the support of the Environment Agency.

ANGLING

There is fishing in certain areas under licence with Chard Angling Club by permit only. Please see details on the notice board at the Angler's car park.



Oaklands car park to birdhide — 0.5km
 Oaklands car park to Angler's car park — 1.5km
 Oaklands car park full loop — 3.3km