

Loddon Lilies

Enjoying Withymead

Withymead is a protected nature reserve, run by volunteers for the benefit of native wildlife and the local community.

Visitors are most welcome during our scheduled opening times or by appointment.

How to visit

Before visiting please check www.withymead.org for our current opening times.

To arrange a visit at any other time please call our wardens on **01491 872265**.

We also host Open Days on Sundays from Easter Day, the start of the Loddon Lily season, through to the end of August. Cream teas are served on the last Sunday of each month. Please see our website for details.

Entrance to Withymead is free, though we ask visitors to consider making a small donation to support our conservation work.

Learning about nature

Our recently renovated orchard and copse provide a dedicated outdoor space for local schools to use for *Forest School* teaching.

The Withymead Study Centre offers facilities for talks, special interest groups, nature studies and surveys.

Please contact us for more information.

Access and safety

The reserve entrance is on Bridle Way between Goring and South Stoke, opposite our car park.

The main paths on the reserve enable access for all, including wheelchairs and buggies. Boardwalks and hides are only suitable for access on foot.

Please keep to designated paths. Beware of uneven or slippery surfaces, deep water in the ponds and inlets, and strong currents in the river.

To protect wildlife and habitats, dogs (other than assistance dogs) are not allowed on the reserve. They are welcome at the Study Centre if kept under control.

Children must be supervised at all times.



Photo: Anne Carmichael Charitable Trust

Help keep Withymead special

Involvement in conservation at Withymead is a great way to be active, meet people and support nature.

Join our *Volunteer Team* or one of the *Green Gyms* who work here. Become a *Friend of Withymead* for access to news and events. Please contact us or see our website for details.



Photo: The Environment Agency

Withymead Nature Reserve

Photo: Simon Booker www.stokepix.com



Explore Withymead Nature Reserve

Discover a lost Thames-side landscape at this enchanting haven for flora and wildlife

See the map overleaf for trails and facilities

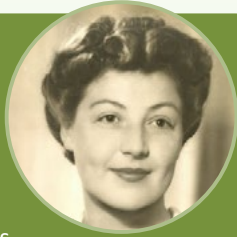
www.withymead.org

Photo: Simon Booker

A special place for nature

Withymead is a tranquil oasis of riverside wildness, where remarkably varied habitats support a rich profusion of flora and fauna.

Anne Carpmael



The reserve was established by Anne Carpmael, a keen naturalist who lived at Withymead for nearly 60 years.

Anne bequeathed Withymead as a special place for the community, to inspire an appreciation of nature, especially amongst young people.

The reserve opened in 2004. It is owned and managed by the Anne Carpmael Charitable Trust.

Remnant of a lost landscape

Before the growth of agriculture, settlement and industry, much of the Thames riverside would have looked like Withymead today. Wet woodland, reed fen and water meadows typified the floodplains of the meandering river. You can still enjoy these exceptional habitats and their distinctive wildlife at Withymead.



Photo: Ivor Coleman

Gloriously varied plant and animal life

Withymead is renowned for its birds: Canada geese and cormorant on the Thames; kingfisher, grebe, coot, moorhen and water rail at the river margin; corn bunting and warblers in the reeds; owls in the woods; cuckoos in spring.



Kingfisher

Photo: David Brown

Willow, alder and hazel typify the wet woodland. Ash, oak and sycamore occupy higher ground. Fenland reeds thrive in the waterlogged floodplain.

Mammals include otter at the riverside; fox, bat and deer on higher ground.

The undergrowth is home to grass snake, slow worm, newt, toad and frog. Glow worms light the paths on summer nights. Dragonfly, moth and butterfly flit to and fro.

Withymead's signature flower, the Loddon Lily, carpets the wetland in spring. Iris, comfrey, meadowsweet and wild angelica provide nectar for insects.

Hidden boat-building past

Surprisingly this was once a scene of industry. Sam Saunders moved his boatyard here in 1897, having outgrown premises in Goring. It is still possible to see the slipway with its rails. Steam powered launches, including the revolutionary Consuta, were built for the rich and famous. More information can be found in our Study Centre and on the website.



The Sam Saunders boatyard

Photo: Goring Gap Local History Society

How to get here

Withymead Nature Reserve
Bridle Way, Goring-on-Thames,
near Reading, RG8 OHS
Tel: 01491 872265



Walk

Follow The Ridgeway Trail along Bridle Way between Goring and South Stoke.



Cycle

Bridle Way is also a right of way for cyclists.



Bus

See www.traveline.info for local services.



Train

Goring and Streatley station is 1½ miles (2.4km) away.



Car

Take B4009 Goring to Wallingford. Near the Goring village sign, turn off towards "Goring & South Stoke (bridleway only)". Above the river, turn right onto Bridle Way and follow the sign to Withymead.

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Written by Ivor Coleman

Designed by David Goodman

See the map overleaf for trails and facilities

www.withymead.org