

Elvetham Heath Local Nature Reserve

The reserve, which is 19.5 hectares (48 acres) in size, is a heathland restoration project. To create the reserve, land which was previously forestry plantation was partially cleared, pathways put down, board walks built over wet areas and fencing erected. Hart Countryside Service is trying to encourage the reserve to revert back to its previous condition as an area of wet and humid heathland through traditional habitat management techniques. Not only is the heathland the historic habitat of the area, but it is also one of the world's rarest habitats and an important place for wildlife.

The characteristic heathland plants such as heather and gorse are regenerating naturally at the site and a mosaic of habitats are emerging alongside this heathland. There are wet areas of reeds and rushes, as well as natural wet woodland dominated by willow, alder and the rare plant Bog Myrtle.

As part of the management of the reserve rare breed cattle graze the site during the drier summer months. Grazing helps control the grasses and young samplings, allowing specialist heathland plants to flourish. Livestock can usually be seen at the reserve between the months of June and September. They are compatible with public use and pose no threat to people or their dogs.

If you visit the site you have a good chance of seeing many of our woodland and heathland birds, a variety of butterflies and dragonflies, wild flowers and several mammal species including rabbits and Roe Deer.

We are sorry there is NO FISHING in this pond – please contact countryside@hart.gov.uk for more details about fishing at Fleet Pond