



Hatchmere Nature Reserve



An introduction to Hatchmere Nature Reserve

Hatchmere Nature Reserve, owned and managed by Cheshire Wildlife Trust, is an important part of Delamere's wetlands. The meres and mosses were formed towards the end of the last ice age and have developed into a unique and fragile landscape within Cheshire. Hatchmere is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and a Ramsar designated wetland site of international importance.

Take a walk along this delightful trail and enjoy a variety of habitats shaped over thousands of years. Wet heathland, wet woodland, reed beds and drier deciduous woodland all connect together to provide habitats for specialist and rare species of plants and animals.



Black damselfly (Britain's smallest dragonfly)



Keep your eye out for common lizards on the wet heathland!

Wet heathland

Lowland heath is extremely scarce in Europe with small pockets of wet heathland scattered across England. Heather, bilberry and sphagnum moss form carpets amongst boggy acidic pools providing habitats for specialised plants and animals like cotton grass, the green hairstreak butterfly and numerous species of dragonflies. Common lizards can be seen basking on warm sunny days. The wet heath at Hatchmere is also home to a shrub called bog myrtle, a Cheshire rarity.



Green hairstreak butterfly

Feeling inspired?

Join Cheshire Wildlife Trust or become a volunteer. Together we are working for an environment rich in wildlife for everyone.

For more information on what you can do to help wildlife visit: www.cheshirewildlifetrust.org.uk



Local volunteers



Scan here for more information on Cheshire Wildlife Trust



Key to Map
 2km Trail Length
 Trail (red dashed line)
 Road (blue line)
 Waymarker (red dot)
 Information (blue dot)
 Viewpoint (blue star)

Wet woodland

Over time woodland has grown up around Hatchmere slowly encroaching on the original mere edge providing a wet woodland habitat. Trees such as willow and alder have adapted to damp conditions. Marsh marigold and the Cheshire rarity saw sedge can be found growing in woodland glades. These areas are very boggy and it is advisable to view from the trail!



Marsh marigold



Yellow flag iris

Mere

Hatchmere is part of a unique wetland landscape in Cheshire. It was formed around 15,000 years ago. As the ice age retreated, it left behind massive chunks of ice which, as they melted, left indents in the ground forming a mere. Wetland birds such as mallard, coot, moorhen and the iconic great-crested grebe grace the water with their presence.



Great-crested grebe



The mere in summer

The Carriers Inn

Reed bed

A swaying backdrop of common reed surrounds the whole of the mere and provides nesting and roosting sites for summer bird visitors such as the sedge and reed warblers, they are seldom seen but listen out for them chattering loudly in the reeds.



Reed bunting



Reed warbler

