



Map



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PART OF HABITAT FIRST

Welcome to Silverlake



This map will serve as a good introduction to places of interest both within the estate of Silverlake and in the local area. With so much to explore we hope you will find the time to seek out some of the local gems described here. We wish you the most memorable time at Silverlake, Dorset.

Exploring Silverlake

One great way to explore Silverlake is to follow the Dormouse trail where children can take a wildlife rubbing at the 5 wildlife interest points across the estate. Don't forget your paper and crayons on this walk.

From Beaumont village take the path from the eastern side of the village which winds around the south side of the lake. This then straightens up and heads directly south towards the Ridge.

From the viewing point you will be able to see down across Outer Heath and the Fishing Lake. First make sure you take in the Pill Box in the pines with its replica Bren gun so you can experience how Silverlake played its part in guarding Portland in the Second World War. The walk down from the Pill Box via the eastern route is more challenging for those with little legs; a gentler route can be found to Sika View to the west.



1

Outer Heath

Outer Heath is a Site of Nature Conservation Interest and rich in flora and fauna. All three types of heather occur here as well as beautiful Heath-spotted orchids in early summer. The heath is also very important for the rare Silver-studded blue butterfly; snakes and lizards and birds such as Nightjar. Please help preserve this special place by sticking to the footpaths and keeping dogs on leads.

2

Fishing Lake

The location of our fishing hut, here you can borrow some of the provided rods in order to try your hand. Please do abide by the fishing rules and return unharmed any fish that might be caught. Keep an eye out at dusk and dawn for our visiting otter and listen out for the frog chorus in early summer.

3

Heath Lake

Details of the Fishing Club rules and regulations as well as tips and tackle advice are available from the hut. Please contact the Estate Office for access.

4

The Island

The place for families to explore and picnic, this location is visited by our local Sika deer, some of our larger birds of prey and is a great spot for pond dipping. The zip wire is a more exhilarating way to cross the pool here, instructions on use are provided, just remember to jump off. The island woodland play area will be the ticket for all children.

5

Gold Crest glade

A quiet spot perfect for relaxing in a hammock. You might even catch a glimpse of one of the countries smallest birds - the Goldcrest.

6

Heath Hide

You can reach Heath Hide from a path leading from the back of the Eco Pool. A short stroll and through the gate will lead you onto the main bridleway to West Stafford and Dorchester. Just cross this to view the Silverlake mire and Warmwell Heath. Make sure you bring your binoculars to look for birds such as Grey heron, Green woodpecker and Buzzard. Dragonflies are also found in great numbers here in the summer months.



7

The Waterhole

The Waterhole is a lovely place to stop and relax. Look out for Dartford warbler and Stonechat which are often seen together in this area. Small herds of Sika deer also regularly visit the Waterhole.

8

Starling Lake

Named after the fantastic murmurations of Starlings in Autumn, Starling Lake is a great place to bird watch all year round. Dartford warbler and Stonechat can often be seen on the gorse at the lake edges; Reed bunting and Reed warbler use the reed beds for nesting in summer and the lake supports lots of ducks and waders including Tufted duck, Wigeon, Little egret and Grey heron.

Nature Notes

Green Woodpecker

Dragonfly

Badger

Silver-studded Blue

Heathlands

Outer heath, Woodlark, and Dart Heaths are all sensitive wildlife areas because they support a great range of plant and animal species. They all support three different types of heather (Common, Cross-leaved & Bell) and Outer Heath supports Heath spotted orchids, Bog asphodel, Lousewort and Heath milkwort.

Nightjar, Linnet, Woodlark and Green woodpecker are common on the heathlands and the lovely Dartford warbler often sings from the gorse bushes.

All the heathland areas are home to some wonderful reptiles including Slow worm, Common lizard and Adder. Outer Heath is also home to several butterflies of conservation concern including Grayling, Grizzled skipper and Silver-studded blue. Across the whole site, nearly 600 different type of invertebrate have been recorded.

Lakes and Ponds

Over 140 different bird species have been recorded at Silverlake and many of these are found on the lakes and ponds. Look out for Shoveler, Gadwall, Tufted duck, Grey heron, Little egret, Little grebe and Great crested grebe. The reed beds are used by Reed bunting and Reed warbler in summer and Sand martins feed over the lakes in the summer months. In autumn watch the impressive Starling murmurations over Starling and Beaumont Lakes and watch them come to roost in the reedbeds.

Over 10 species of dragonfly and damselfly are found using the lakes and ponds including the impressive Emperor dragonfly and the delicate Large red damselfly.

Otters often visit Otter Lake so keep an eye out if you are walking anywhere near there at dusk and dawn.

Woodland

The woodland that surrounds the edges of Dart Heath is one of the most important areas for dormice at Silverlake and we are helping these rare mammals by monitoring them and providing special nesting boxes for them. Badgers often visit the woodland surrounding the Play Area and you may see them at dusk and dawn.

Willow warbler, Bullfinch, Spotted flycatcher, Goldcrest and Buzzard are just some of the bird species found in the woodlands.

You can help us protect these wildlife-rich habitats and the species they support by sticking to the footpaths, keeping your dogs on a lead and by not disturbing any bird or dormouse boxes you may find.

Adder

Willow Warbler

Essential basics

Dogs must be kept on a lead at all times.

All rubbish and waste must be taken to one of the bin stores, and must not be left outside houses or anywhere else on the Estate at any time.

Access to any construction area is not permitted at any time unless accompanied by a member of Estate staff or the approved contractor.

10

For the safety of families enjoying the estate please do not exceed the 10 mph speed limit.

P

Every property has assigned and numbered parking spaces. Please ensure you park within your bays at all times.

Water sports must be in designated areas only.

Do not flush nappies or wipes down toilets.

Do not climb over fences.

Cats must be kept in at night time.

Ponies & Cattle are not to be approached, fed or petted.

Spa

Seasonal opening times displayed at the entrance.

Gym open 8am to 8pm everyday (access via side gate).

Telephone:
01305 819909

Useful contacts

Estate Manager
01305 851784
steve.sudworth@silverlakedorset.net

Habitat Escapes
01305 853490 (option 1)

Habitat Housekeeping
01285 869489 (ext 3)

Sales
01305 853490 (option 2)

Activity Hub
07971 252394

Taxi
01305 250666