



*Green Tiger Beetle
only 16mm long this beetle can
run at 60cm per second.*

LIGHTWATER COUNTRY PARK

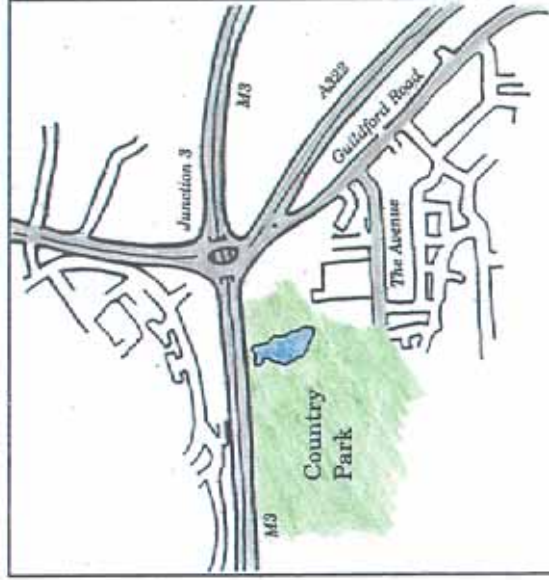
Lightwater Country Park is situated on the edge of Lightwater village and extends to 59 hectares. The Country Park is predominately heathland habitat, but there are others and these include ponds, woodland, meadows, scrub and lowland bog. These habitats offer the opportunity to observe a wide variety of wildlife, birds, mammals, plants and insects.

MANAGEMENT

At Lightwater Country Park three main areas of importance have been identified. These are to encourage appropriate recreational use of the park, promote an interest in the countryside through education and thirdly to conserve the wildlife. On a multi-purpose site such as this a balanced approach to management is required. Therefore we aim to cater for the needs of recreation and education without compromising the needs of the wildlife.

LOCATION

Lightwater Country Park is easily found off Junction 3 of the M3 motorway, between the villages of Bagshot and Lightwater. From Guildford and Bracknell it is signed off the A322. The nearest train station is Bagshot. Bus routes from Camberley and Guildford stop at Lightwater. Grid reference for the Country Park is SU 921 622.



LEISURE SERVICES PARKS AND COUNTRYSIDE

The Country Park is just part of Surrey Heath's Parks and Countryside estate looked after by Leisure Services. The Council provide approximately 300 hectares of public open space, which includes a variety of formal parks and recreation grounds, woodland, lakes and heathland. Many of these parks provide opportunities for organised sport while informal leisure pursuits can be enjoyed by all.

The Parks and Countryside Section arranges a programme of walks and events at various sites throughout the year.

For further details please contact Leisure Services on Camberley (01276) 707100 or 707374.

Surrey Heath Borough Council, Surrey Heath House, Knoll Road, Camberley, Surrey GU15 3HD.

Lilly

Produced with the assistance of
Eli Lilly and Company Limited

Designed, Illustrated & Produced by Brian E. Wiles 01278 785938

Lightwater Country Park



General Information



LEISURE SERVICES

RECREATION

The Country Park offers the visitor an opportunity to explore accessible countryside close to home. The numerous tracks that criss-cross the park enable the visitor to enjoy the scenery without disturbing the wildlife. Whilst activities such as walking and picnicking are encouraged, the driving of cars and motorcycles other than on the access road and car parks is prohibited. Also due to the high fire risk in the area open fires and barbecues are not permitted. A list of bye-laws that cover the Country Park are displayed at various access points around the site.

CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND 1

Situated close to the park's entrance this playground caters for children from toddlers to twelve years. Play equipment includes swings, rope trails, balancing beams and a four metre high space net.

WILDFOWL 2

A variety of wildfowl can be observed on the ponds, especially on the little lake near the park's entrance. These include Mallards, Canada Geese, Moorhens and some little seen native ducks, such as Tufted Duck.



Tufted duck
Female above, male below.

HEATHLAND BOUNDARY - A SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

The area of heathland within the Country Park has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest: an area of high nature conservation value. This is due to the rarity of this type of habitat and the species it supports. This designation legally protects this valuable habitat against damaging operations or development.



4
Roe Deer can be seen at the Country Park.

Front cover Silver Studded Blue on Bell Heather

HEATHLAND VISITOR CENTRE 6

The Visitor Centre offers displays on heathland and general natural history. It is used to stage walks, talks and events and is available for school/group hire. For details of opening hours or to organise group bookings contact the Rangers on (01276) 479582 or check the notice board on the Visitor Centre.

ANGLING 7

Hammond's Pond contains a mixture of coarse fish comprising Roach, Perch, Bream and Carp. Around part of the pond are twenty specially built swims. The open season runs from mid-June to mid-March and application forms for permits are available from the Rangers on (01276) 479582. The fishing rights belong to Lightwater Angling Society. NO NIGHT FISHING is allowed and NO DAY TICKETS are available.



9 HIGH CURLEY HILL Viewpoint
129m The highest point in the park.



Walking is a popular activity at the Country Park.

8
Gorse and Bell Heather add colour to the heath.

Artists impression of the Leisure centre.

LIGHTWATER LEISURE CENTRE 5

Within the Country Park there is a leisure complex and playing fields offering the opportunity to take part in sports and leisure activities. The complex is administered by the Lightwater Playing Fields Association. Full details of activities, hiring rates and membership can be obtained from the manager on (01276) 472662.



FITNESS CIRCUIT 3

Adjacent to the Leisure Centre is a small fitness circuit set amongst pine trees. The exercise equipment includes leap frogs, chin-up bars and monkey bars.

HISTORICAL NOTES

Lightwater Country Park is an important fragment of the once vast Bagshot Heath, stretching to Bracknell and Windsor. The Country Park area has a recorded history going back to Saxon times: the main road linking Chertsey Abbey and Frimley Priory skirted the base of High Curley Hill. The area was called whit heke mere (white, clear water, surrounded by grass) which is thought to be a reference to Hammond's Pond, and the source of the name of the nearby village of Lightwater.

Children gathered gorse for fuel.



In these times the heaths were regarded by travellers as barren and possibly dangerous wildernesses to be traversed as rapidly as possible. The main use of Heathland in the Lightwater area was for sheep grazing, a source of the famed roast mutton, served to the weary traveller in the Bagshot Inns on the London Road.

Curley Hill was also a source of the local supply of gravel. By statute, during the reign of William and Mary, all local residents had to spend four days each year collecting gravel to repair the pot holes in local roads, extraction ceased in 1910.

The Country Park in its present form came into being in 1973, combining land of Windlesham Parish Council and the newly formed Surrey Heath Borough Council. It is managed today by Surrey Heath's Parks and Countryside Service.

COUNTRYSIDE RANGERS - SERVICES AVAILABLE

SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND GROUPS

The Rangers offer a wide range of services for visiting schools and groups and are also available for local outreach projects at their own venues. A teacher's pack and student resource pack are available on request, please call the rangers for further information and advice.

EVENTS

The Rangers stage a series of events throughout the year with a variety of themes, pick up the separate leaflet which shows dates and timings.

VOLUNTEERS

Opportunities are available for people with an interest in the countryside to work with the Ranger Service as volunteers. There are a variety of tasks that you can help with to conserve this important local site.

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you require any further information on any of the above services please call the Rangers on (01276) 479582.

Cattle grazing is now being reintroduced on some heathlands.



LEAFLETS AVAILABLE

The Parks and Countryside Service offers a range of leaflets providing information on the many activities offered within the borough. These are available from the Visitor Centre, the Rangers or from the council's offices in Camberley. Below is a list of leaflets to help make your visit to Lightwater Country Park and Surrey Heath enjoyable and informative.

TRAIL GUIDE - Information that allows you to guide yourself around the Country Park, either on a Heathland Trail or the shorter Nature Trail.

EVENTS GUIDE - This outlines the upcoming events at the Country Park and other sites managed by the council.

DOG CONTROL - This leaflet is available to inform the dog owner about the need to keep their dog on a lead in certain areas and to remove dog fouling to the specially provided bins thereby reducing the health risks to humans and wildlife. Dogs can also create disturbance during the breeding season to animals, particularly nesting birds in the heather and around the ponds.

PARKS AND COUNTRYSIDE SITES - This leaflet provides information and maps on the recreational activities within the borough including the council's managed sites.

REMEMBER -

- For safety's sake, keep away from the water's edge and do not attempt to swim or enter the water.
- Please observe the bye-laws.
- Please keep your dog under control at all times, particularly on a lead in designated areas.