

Useful Information

Directions

On Foot - pedestrian entrances to the Memorial Park can be found off the A321 (Yorktown Road) in Sandhurst. Shepherd Meadows is accessed from the A321 (Marshall Road), via entrances on the A30 (London Road) and across the railway line from Darby Green.

By bicycle - a shared pedestrian / cycle path runs along the A321 in Sandhurst. Cycle stands are provided at both car parks.

By bus - the nearest bus stop is located at the Meadows shopping centre off the A321. For further bus information contact Travel Line 0871 200 22 33.

By car - car parks for both the Memorial Park and Shepherd Meadows are located off the A321 (Marshall Road) in Sandhurst GU47 0FH. These include disabled parking bays.



Devil's Bit Scabious

Contacts

Bracknell Forest Council

Parks & Countryside Service
www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/parks
01344 354441

Sandhurst Town Council

Council Offices, Sandhurst Memorial Park,
Yorktown Road, Sandhurst, Berkshire, GU47 9BJ.
www.sandhurst.gov.uk
01252 879060

Blackwater and Hawley Town Council

www.blackwaterandhawleytowncouncil.gov.uk
01276 33050

Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership

www.blackwater-valley.org.uk
01252 331353

Facilities

- | | |
|--|---|
|  Parking |  Leaflet available |
|  Access |  Surfaced Path |
|  Toddlers play area |  Refreshments |
|  Young adults play area |  Toilets |



Copies of this leaflet may be obtained in large print, Braille, on audio tape or in other languages. To obtain a copy in an alternative format, please telephone 01344 352000.

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Discover ...

Shepherd Meadows and Sandhurst Memorial Park



A countryside site and park in Sandhurst



Skatepark
Photo by Stewart Turkington



Shepherd Meadows discovery day

Welcome to Sandhurst!

Situated on the southern edge of Bracknell Forest and bordering Berkshire, Surrey and Hampshire, Sandhurst has much to offer in the form of recreation.

Shepherd Meadows and Sandhurst Memorial Park are neighbouring sites in the south of the town on the River Blackwater. Shepherd Meadows is 40 hectares (100 acre) of wet meadows and woodlands. The site, which was named after wildlife artist David Shepherd, is an important nature and landscape area managed by Bracknell Forest Council. Next door is Sandhurst Memorial Park; a 28 hectare (69 acre) site managed by Sandhurst Town Council for sport and informal recreation.

History

During medieval times, Shepherd Meadows hosted regular hunting parties from nearby Chertsey Abbey. At the turn of the century, it was used by the Royal Military Academy as a British Army training ground. In the late 1980s, the College Farm residential development and the building of a large shopping centre allowed Bracknell Forest Council to acquire the remainder of the land to complement the existing nature reserve and public open space.

Sandhurst Memorial Park began in 1949 when 2.4 hectares of land known as Brookside Field was purchased by Sandhurst Parish Council to provide a public recreation ground for residents. Successive parish/town councils have gained the rights over adjacent farm and woodlands to make the Memorial Park what it is today.



Damselflies
Photo by Derek Morgan

Wildlife

Due to its important meadows and wildlife, Shepherd Meadows is part of the Blackwater Valley Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) - designated by Natural England.

During spring and summer the meadows are covered by wildflowers including golden meadow buttercups, devil's bit scabious, purple meadow thistle and yellow birds-foot trefoil. The woodland is dominated by trees like oak, ash and alder coppice and includes spring displays of flowers like wood anemone and dog violets.

The meadows are home to over 600 species of insect, including orange tip butterflies, damsel and dragonflies, grasshoppers and bush crickets.

Bird life at Shepherd Meadows includes flocks of siskins, meadow pipits and thrushes in winter. In summer it is home to breeding kestrels, warblers, spotted flycatchers and woodpeckers. The River Blackwater and the feeder channels attract many waterfowl and wading birds. Rarely seen foxes and roe deer also inhabit the meadows.

Sandhurst Memorial Park also contains interesting nature areas, with a balancing pond, a meadow and a small piece of ancient woodland providing ideal habitats for wildlife.

Facilities

A range of facilities are available to the public including:

- Sandhurst Sports Club with its own bar.
- Coffee Spot - for refreshments and for children's party hire
- Skate park with youth shelter.
- Parish office and community hall.
- Toilets.
- Children's play area and activity trail for youths.
- Multi-use games area.
- Tennis courts and basketball court.
- Football pitches and cricket square.

Get involved

Sandhurst Memorial Park hosts a number of community events throughout the year – the most popular include the donkey derby, dog show, funfair, fireworks display and five-a-side football tournaments.

Shepherd Meadows also hosts events including pond-dipping, minibeasting and conservation volunteering. For more information on BFC events or conservation volunteering contact the Parks helpline overleaf.

Access and interpretation

Shepherd Meadows is a Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) continually being improved so that it is visited more frequently than nearby sites in the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area - an important heathland area where rare ground nesting birds live.

The site has a network of paths to help visitor access, including tarmac paths suitable for disabled access, hoggan paths along the north bank of the river and cross-field paths to the south of the river. The Blackwater River Corridor, which includes the Blackwater Valley Path, runs through both sites and is managed by the Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership for the purposes of nature conservation and informal recreation.

Information points are located throughout the site. These include details of organisations with permanent facilities at the park, an events board, information sign posts to help visitors find their way around and a lectern-style interpretation board.



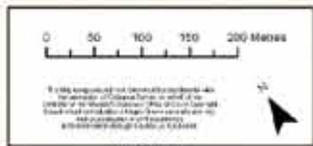
Sandhurst play area
Photo by STC

Sandhurst Memorial Park & Shepherd Meadows

Legend

- Public Rights Of Way**
- Footpath
 - RB
 - BW
 - Cycle Parking
 - Bus Stops
 - Railway Stations
- Bus Routes to Parks**
- 194
 - 598

- Park Boundary**
- Sandhurst Memorial Park Boundary
 - BFC Parks & Countryside Service
- Roads**
- Roads
 - BFC Borough Boundary
 - Bridge
 - Building
 - Car Park
 - Ditch / Water
 - Grass
 - Hard Surface
 - Path
 - River
 - Access
 - Sports Pitch
 - Trees



SANDHURST LANE

TO LONDON ROAD (A30)
TO CAMBERLEY

A331
TO M3 AND A31

Blackwater