

# Yateley Common Nature Trail



Wyndham's Pool

Common Gorse

Explore and discover more about Yateley Common on this fun nature trail.

**5** Created in a wet valley in 2011, this pond was designed to be ephemeral, meaning it often dries up in summer. These ponds are important for a range of wildlife including a number of scarce dragonflies and damselflies.

**6** This woodland is known as the 'Old Ely'. It is the original site of The Ely pub, now located further west along the A30. The old woodlands contain a number of oaks and are home to a variety of fungi, best seen in the autumn.

**7** The gorse edges lining many of the tracks in this area are maintained as low hedge lines, in order to allow visitors to gain views out over the heathlands, whilst protecting the heathland species from disturbance. This gorse is known as Common Gorse, but the rarer Dwarf Gorse can also be found on Yateley Common.

**8** This area of gorse dominated scrub is an ideal place to see the Dartford Warbler, one of the protected species that gives Yateley Common its protected designation as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Protection Area (SPA).

**9** This scrubbed up woodland is what heathland would naturally become if left unmanaged. Although we clear some woodland to preserve the heathland, we keep other areas in order to increase habitat diversity. Woodlands have their own associated wildlife, the diversity of which increases with age. Bats use this area and can often be seen feeding around Wyndham's Pool at dusk.

**10** Wyndham's Pool is the largest pond on Yateley Common. It probably originated as a fish pond and was later used as a bathing pool with diving board at the north end. During WWII the pond, like others in the area, was drained so that it couldn't be used as a landmark. The dam you cross was installed in 2016, to replace the previous dam. Today the pond is used for recreational fishing.



Dartford Warbler

Sliver-studded Blue butterfly



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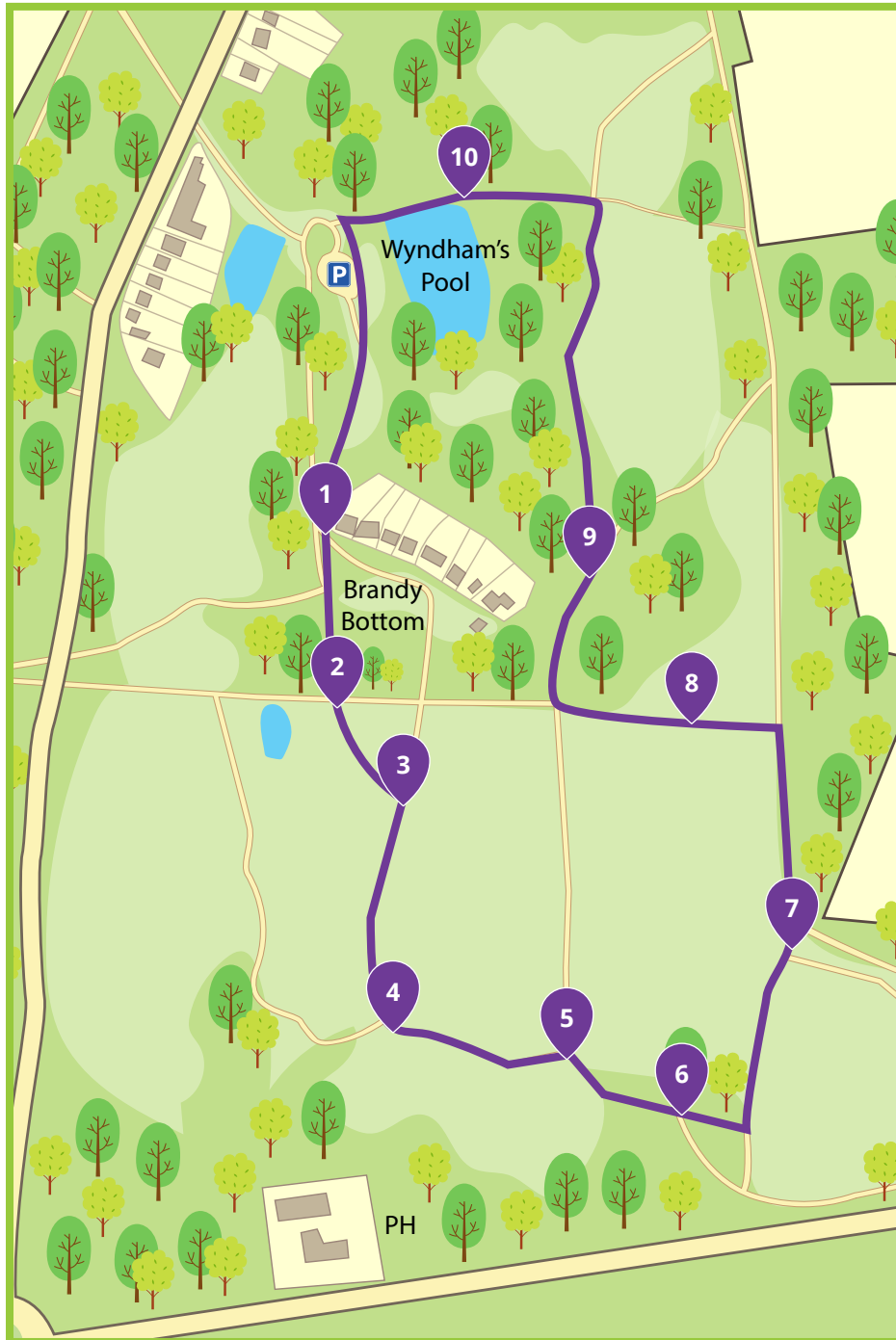
This Nature Trail has been created thanks to a legacy from the late Daphne Kirkpatrick to the Yateley Society. Daphne was passionate about conserving Yateley Common, informing and inspiring future generations; values which the Yateley Society shares and supports.



Hampshire  
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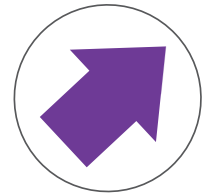
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# Welcome to Yateley Common



This self-guided nature trail will help you explore the woodlands, ponds, heathland and their wildlife, learning interesting facts and collecting rubbings along the way.

Starting at Wyndham's Pool car park, follow the trail marked out with purple arrows and stop at each numbered point to find out more.



- 1 This small group of houses is known as Brandy Bottom. There have been houses on this site for generations. Some of the original properties still have commoners' rights written into their deeds.
- 2 The open heathland is dominated by heather. It is important to have a variety of ages as a lot of wildlife is specialised to heather of a certain age. Silver-studded Blue butterfly require young heather, whilst Woodlark nest on the bare ground.
- 3 Historically, Yateley Common was an open landscape and traditional uses, such as gorse coppicing, grazing and birch cutting prevented trees and scrub from dominating. Over recent years much work has been done to restore the heathlands, but we also retain scattered trees to act as lookout posts for birds such as the Nightjar.

- 4 Heathlands provide perfect conditions for reptiles which bask in the warm sun of open areas. These include the Adder, Grass Snake, Common Lizard and the rarer, secretive Smooth Snake historically recorded in this area. Monitoring the species found on Yateley Common is an important part of its management.

