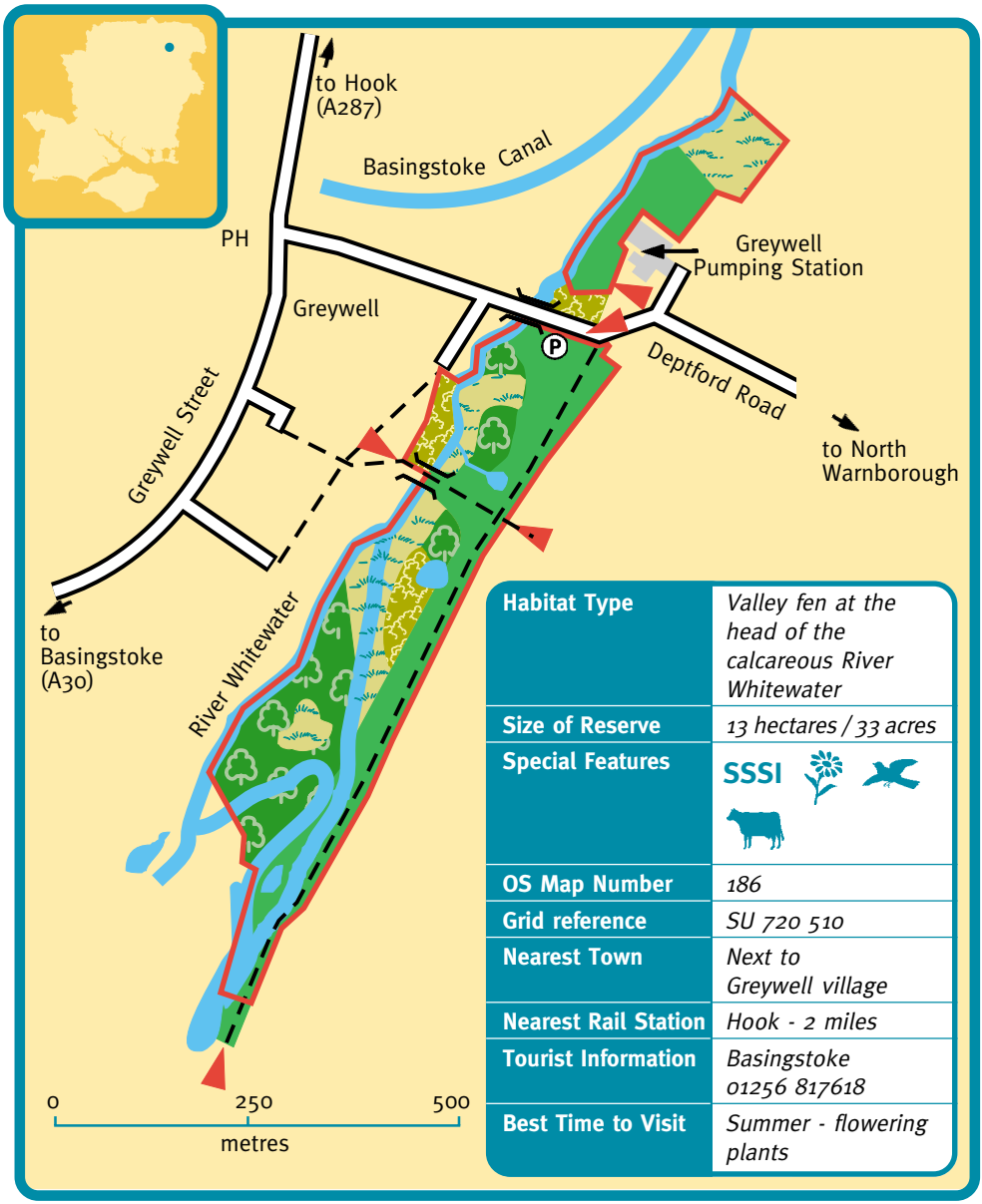
Greywell Moors

The Wallace Memorial Reserve

A nationally important fen and wet woodland system with many rare plants and invertebrates.



Habitat Type	*Valley fen at the head of the calcareous River Whitewater*
Size of Reserve	*13 hectares / 33 acres*
Special Features	SSSI
OS Map Number	*186*
Grid reference	*SU 720 510*
Nearest Town	*Next to Greywell village*
Nearest Rail Station	*Hook - 2 miles*
Tourist Information	*Basingstoke 01256 817618*
Best Time to Visit	*Summer - flowering plants*

HOW TO GET THERE

From Junction 5 of the M3 take the A287 east towards Farnham, and take the first right towards Greywell. Turn left in Greywell opposite the pub (Fox and Goose), down Deptford Lane. Go over the River Whitewater and after the bridge park on the right hand side opposite the pumping station entrance.

Alton to Basingstoke bus route number C43 stops at the Fox and Goose pub, Greywell. A footpath leads from the village to the reserve.

ACCESS

The southern part of the site is open access all year round. A public footpath and bridleway cross the reserve, both unsurfaced. Please avoid the marshy areas as these are sensitive to trampling and can be dangerous to cross. Please contact the Wildlife Trust if you wish to visit the northern part of the reserve as it is permit only due to ownership requirements.

SITE DESCRIPTION

This fen would once have been almost treeless, but, due to a post-war cessation of grazing, wet woodland and scrub have invaded. This has reduced the area of open fen meadow, but it is still extraordinarily rich in scarce plant species including national rarities. Large-scale scrub clearance and the reintroduction of cattle grazing has resulted in an increase in the area of fen in more recent times. The northern part of the reserve, behind the pumping station, is extremely unusual having been formed by dumping of lime spoil on the fen over the last century. Although this may sound disastrous the effect was to provide perfect conditions for large numbers of orchids to flourish.

WILDLIFE

- The open fen meadow is extremely rich in scarce species including Marsh Helleborine and other orchids flowering amongst Marsh-marigold, Pepper-saxifrage and Marsh Lousewort.
- The fen is also nationally important for its populations of sedges, rushes and lower plants such as mosses and liverworts.
- The very scarce shrub Mezereon grows in the wet woodland.

OTHER

- The apparently species-poor grassland that confronts you when entering the reserve from the bridlepath helps to support the Highland cattle that also graze the fen.
- In the middle of the site, near the footpath, there is a memorial stone to the eminent botanist Ted Wallace, who worked extensively on and loved the site.
- Jointly managed with the British Bryological Society.
- The northern part of the site has a layer of the limed sediment from the settling tanks spread over it. This fine sediment has resulted in an unusual mixture of plants that would not normally occur together.

NEARBY SITES OF INTEREST

Bartley Heath, Hook Common and Warnborough Greens Wildlife Reserves
- see page 26
A large area of heathland, grassland and woodland.

Mapledurwell Fen Wildlife Reserve
- see page 88
A small area of wet fen, rich in plant life.