

What do we do to conserve the wildlife at the lake?

Chew Valley Lake is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and a Special Protection Area (SPA) and sits within the Mendip Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. From late July to February up to 6,000 ducks may be present, including nationally important numbers of Shoveler and Gadwall (pictured).

In 1969 the southern end of the lake was designated as a nature reserve. Avon Wildlife Trust manages the nature reserve by creating islands and cutting back reeds to provide nesting sites that are safe from predators. Bristol Water also works alongside Natural England and Mendip Hills AONB Unit to conserve wildlife and maintain biodiversity around the lake.



Gadwall

Bristol Water applies the National Code of Practice for Conservation, Access and Recreation (2000). We look to support the best overall harmony between public access and conservation, managing the access arrangements to minimise undue wildlife disturbance.

To find out more about conservation, please visit www.bristolwater.co.uk/environment-recreation

History of Chew Valley Lake

Construction of Chew Valley Lake began in November 1950 to create a drinking water reservoir for Bristol and the surrounding area. The lake was created by the damming of the River Chew near Chew Stoke. Farms and houses had to be removed before the land was flooded, and old roads, hedgerows and tree stumps can reappear when the water levels drop following dry summers.

It took just over five years to complete and was officially opened by Queen Elizabeth II on 17 April 1956. With a capacity of 20,000 million litres, the lake is the largest artificial freshwater lake in the South West, and the fifth largest in the UK.

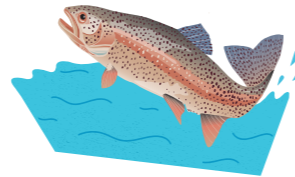


Recreational activities at Chew Valley Lake

Cycling and walking A new 2.7km recreational trail links up Woodford Lodge on the West side of the lake to the two picnic areas on the East side of the lake. This trail is an all weather surfaced trail suitable for disabled access and buggies. The trail runs along the roadside section of the Grebe trail, which links onto the Bittern trail (see overleaf for more information on the two nature trails).

Fishing and birdwatching

Chew Valley Lake is stocked with Rainbow Trout. You can fish from the bank and from boats on the lake, but require a permit to do so. We also provide five permit only bird hides, where you can keep an eye out for some of the 260 species of bird that visit the lake in relative peace and tranquillity. To buy a birdwatching permit, you need to be a member of a naturalist society. To find out more about fishing or birdwatching permits, please contact our fisheries team at Woodford Lodge on 01275 332339 or visit www.bristolwaterfisheries.com



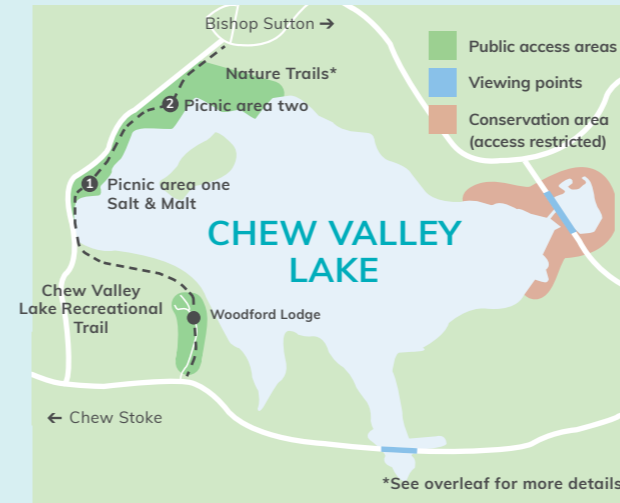
Rainbow Trout

Sailing Sailing on the lake is only permitted through Chew Valley Lake Sailing Club, which is a friendly volunteer run community club. New members welcome. To find out more, please visit www.chewvalleysailing.org.uk

Woodford Lodge This is Bristol Water's hub for sport fishing and home to 'The Woodford' lakeside restaurant (see below) and the 'Life for a Life' Memorial Forest. Woodford Lodge has a tackle shop, where you can purchase fishing and bird watching permits.

The Woodford – Lakeside Food Enjoy spectacular views across the lake from The Woodford restaurant at Woodford Lodge. The Woodford is open seven days a week serving breakfast and lunch. Relax and sample some of their great tasting, locally sourced food. For more information, please visit www.thewoodfordatchew.co.uk

Visitor information



Picnic areas

We have two picnic areas which provide perfect spots for watching the wildlife and activities on the lake while enjoying a bite to eat. The path between the two picnic areas is suitable for disabled access and buggies. There are plenty of benches along the way so you can sit and admire views of the lake and Denny Island beyond.

Picnic area 1: facilities

- Salt & Malt (see right)
- Children's playground
- Toilets (disabled facilities)

Picnic area 2: facilities

- Grebe nature trail
- Bittern nature trail
- Toilets (no disabled facilities)

Salt & Malt

Salt & Malt is an award-winning restaurant and takeaway situated on the banks of the lake at Picnic area 1. It's famed for its freshly caught fish, and chips, which you can enjoy outside on the picnic tables or in the restaurant.

To see their full menu, please visit www.saltmalt.com



bristolwater.co.uk/chewvalleylake



Nature Trails at Chew Valley Lake



bristolwater.co.uk/chewvalleylake

Go explore!



Black and Yellow Longhorn Beetle

Chew Valley Lake is home to a dazzling array of plants and animals, which can be seen from the Chew Valley Lake Recreational Trail and our two nature trails.

The Chew Valley Lake Recreational Trail is a 2.7km all weather trail that links Woodford Lodge to the picnic areas. This trail is suitable for walkers, cyclists, buggies and disabled access.

The Grebe Trail is a 1.2km hard, level trail. The roadside section of the Grebe Trail is part of the Chew Valley Lake Recreational Trail. The lakeside section of the Grebe Trail is narrower and therefore cycles are not permitted on this section of the trail.

From the Grebe Trail you can access the Bittern Trail, a 1.5km trail that is part boardwalk and part unsurfaced. This path can be muddy and is unsuitable for buggies and disabled access.

Dogs are welcome at both picnic areas and on the Grebe trail, but must be kept on a lead at all times. No dogs are allowed on the Bittern trail, this is to minimise disturbance to the wildlife present.

Grebe Trail (dogs must be kept on leads)

Birds Reed Warbler, Reed Bunting, Coal Tit and Chaffinch.

Flora Devil's-bit Scabious, Black Knapweed, Southern Marsh Orchid and Bird's Foot Trefoil.

Trees Sweet Chestnut, Beech, Sycamore and English Oak.

Invertebrates Marbled White Butterfly, Meadow Brown and Common Blue Damselfly.

Pic: Great Crested Grebe



Bittern Trail (no dogs allowed)

Birds Sparrowhawk, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Tree Creeper, Goldcrest and Siskin.

Flora Dogwood, Meadowsweet, Purple Loosestrife, Water Mint, Bramble and Common Nettle.

Trees Crack Willow, Grey Willow, White Willow, Alder And Hawthorn.

Invertebrates Leaf Beetle, Migrant Hawker, Hoverfly, Small Tortoiseshell Butterfly, Black and Yellow Longhorn Beetle.

Birds visible from the hide

All year Coot, Cormorant, Grey Heron, Canada Goose and Mute Swan

July to March Tufted Duck, Pochard, Goldeneye, Shoveler, Teal and Wigeon.

Low water Lapwing, Common Sandpiper, Greenshank, Snipe and Dunlin.

Pic: Bittern



Soprano Pipistrelle

Hollow Brook footbridge

CHEW VALLEY LAKE

Grebe Trail

Bittern Trail

Boardwalk

Lookout point with telescope

Bird hide

Picnic area 2

← to Picnic area 1

Reed bed

The reed bed at Chew Valley Lake is the largest in the South West and home to between 500 and 1,000 pairs of breeding Reed Warblers. They can be seen on the lake's margins alongside Sedge Warblers. Around 20 pairs of Reed Bunting (the largest population in the Bristol area) breed in patches of reed on the edges of the lake, often staying in these throughout the year. The drier margins support an increasing population of Cetti's Warbler. This species is rarely seen, but is often heard around the lake.

Open water

Our lake welcomes up to 50,000 Gulls over the winter, including Black-Headed, Common and Lesser Black-backed Gulls, alongside Mallard, Tufted Ducks, Shovelers, Gadwall, Shelducks, Teal, Pochard and Widgeon.

Mixed woodland

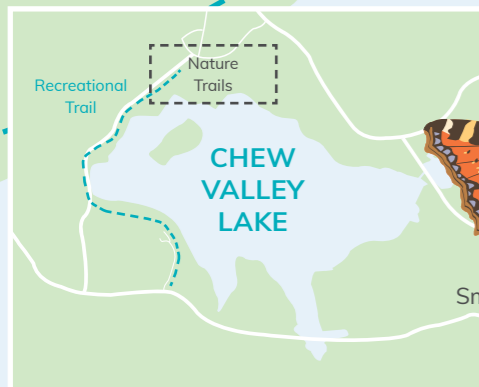
Wander around our woodland areas to see a variety of deciduous and coniferous trees, including Sweet Chestnut, Beech, Sycamore, English Oak, Alder and Corsican and Scots Pine. Spot Chaffinches, Coal Tits, Treecreepers, Great Spotted Woodpeckers and Sparrowhawks among the branches.

Bats

13 of the 18 species of bat resident in the UK can be found at Chew Valley Lake. Our woodland is now home to Daubenton's, Noctule and Brown Long-eared bats alongside the Common and Soprano Pipistrelle, thanks to the installation of bat boxes.



Small Tortoiseshell Butterfly



Stay safe

We want you to have a great time at Chew Valley Lake, but there are a few things you can do for us:

1. Please keep to footpaths: stay away from the water's edge and out of the water.
2. This is an important site for wildlife, so please follow the countryside code.
3. Please take your litter and recycling home with you or use the bins provided.
4. Please keep dogs on the lead, under control and out of the water (no dogs are allowed on the Bittern Trail)
5. Please ensure you pick up any dog mess.
6. Please do not light fires or barbecues.

Reducing our plastic waste

Bristol Water has been involved in the following initiatives to help us all reduce our plastic waste.

- The Water Bar is a pop-up bar that tours events around over the summer to provide free water refills. At Glastonbury Festival alone, we hand out enough water to stop the equivalent of 10,000 plastic bottles being used.
- Bristol Water have 10 water fountains across Bristol, with more on their way. They will save more than 50 miles worth of single-use plastic every year.
- Bristol Water partnered with City to Sea to launch the 'Refill Bristol' campaign, with the aim of cutting down on single use plastic bottles and promoting the benefits of drinking tap water. There are more than 400 refill locations across our service area. Download the Refill app to find local Refill Stations, or look for the Refill droplet in shop windows.

Help save every drop

We can all do our bit to help reduce how much water we use. Why not:

- cut one minute off your shower. If everyone in the UK cut one minute off their shower, we could save 660 million litres of water a day.
- turn the tap off when you brush your teeth. This can save 24 litres of water, per person, per day, which is approximately 8,760 litres a year.
- install a water butt in your garden. The average roof collects about 85,000 litres of rain in a year. This could fill 450 water butts with free rain water.
- fix leaking taps. On average a leaking tap can waste up to 5,500 litres of water a year.

For more water saving ideas see bristolwater.co.uk/every-drop