

Wildlife

With its diverse mix of habitats the park is rich in wildlife. At quiet times Roe Deer are regularly seen and in most years Foxes raise cubs. Large patches of Bluebells provide a woodland spring carpet and in summer foxgloves are common.

The bird life is varied. In winter the Birch woods are home to flocks of Redwing and the Alder trees provide food for Siskin. Spring sees the arrival of summer visiting Chiffchaff and Willow Warbler; both these birds weigh little more than a tea bag! Recent rarities include Nightjar and Lesser Spotted Woodpecker.

Douster and Island Ponds are so rich in dragonflies, that they are designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest. Although the naturally acidic ponds hold little bird life, beneath the water large Carp and Pike swim.

Habitat management work has improved the heathland and reptiles are flourishing. Adders are common but pose little threat. On summer days Grass Snakes have been seen to cross the ponds.

As the crow flies it is little more than two miles from Crawley town centre to Buchan Country Park, yet Sparrowhawks, lizards, newts and Hornets all call the park home.



Enjoy your visit and follow the Countryside Code...

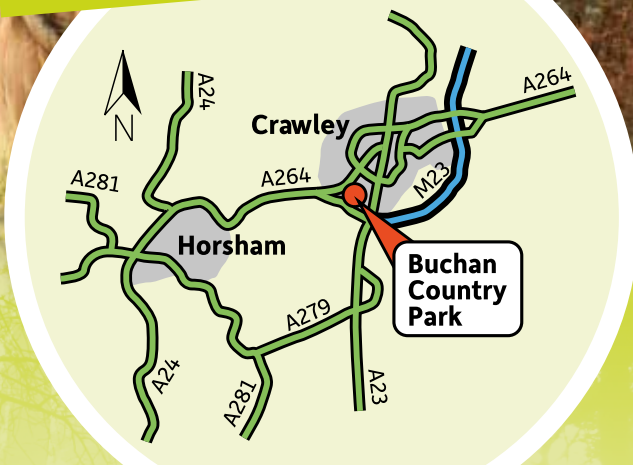
Keep your dog on a lead until you cross the A264 bridge into the Country Park, and always under close control and in sight.

Pick up after your dog and use the bins provided.

Do not let your dog disturb the wildlife.

Take your litter home.

How to get to Buchan Country Park:



Travel by bus

Travelling to the park is accessible via bus. Hop on the bus and get off at:

- From **Bewbush** on route **3, 23** or **200** and get off at **Dorsten Square**
- From **Broadfield** on route **1** or **Fastway 10** and get off at **Pelham Drive**

From there, follow the signs and pathways leading to the park. Approximately a 10min walk.

Stay in touch

📍 **Buchan Country Park**
Horsham Road, Crawley
West Sussex RH11 9HQ

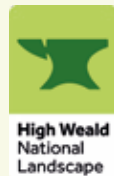
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📘 Buchan Country Park

📷 @CountrysideWSCC

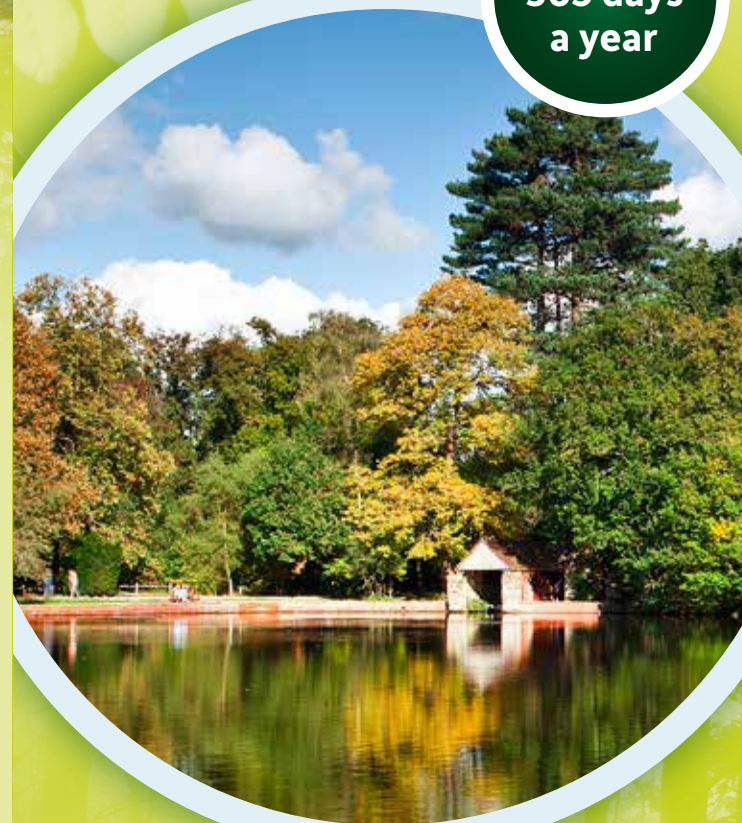
🌐 westsussex.gov.uk/buchan



Buchan Country Park

Trail Guide

Open
365 days
a year



Welcome to Buchan Country Park – a Green Flag Award winning park since 2010

Owned and managed by West Sussex County Council, the Park is an excellent place for walking, watching wildlife or enjoying a picnic.

Situated within the High Weald National Landscape, Buchan Country Park is 69 hectares of beautiful countryside on Crawley's doorstep.

Facilities

- **Free car parking including disabled bays.**
- **Free mini-bus/coach parking** with prior arrangement.
- **Accessible toilets and baby changing rooms.**
- **Surfaced paths.**
- **Countryside Centre** – Refreshments available. Open Wednesday to Sunday and bank holidays.
- **BBQ stands, picnic areas and benches.**
- **Dog Dip** – dog swimming area.
- **Orienteering Course for novices.**
- **Fishing** – Crawley Angling Society members only.

For more info on our facilities and policies, visit westsussex.gov.uk/buchan

Friends of Buchan Country Park

Friends of Buchan Country Park are a group of people who are passionate about the park and its wildlife and who promote its use as a beautiful public space. Email fobcp24@hotmail.com for more information.



Spruce Hill Coppice

In the early 19th Century the area was owned by Lord Erskine, who named the estate Buchan Hill after his father, the Earl of Buchan. Today, Bramble, Bluebell and Bracken dominate the woodland. Old Sweet Chestnut stumps are also a feature. Follow the signs to link up with the Colgate/Kilnwood Vale public bridlway.

Plantation

Much of the plantation was destroyed by fire in 1989. Some large Pine trees still show the scorch marks from the fire. Today the mixture of mature Pines, Oaks, coppiced Birch, Heather and Purple Moor grass is home to vast numbers of Wood Ants.

Middle Covert

In medieval times the area was mined for iron ore. The 'craters' dotted about the woodland are the remains of mine pits. Turning the ore into iron consumed a huge amount of timber which led to the loss of much of the ancient woodland. Today, each winter a block of Silver Birch is coppiced to create glades for wild flowers and reptiles. In time the Birch re-grows to form dense scrub.

The Meadow

Once part of Cottesmore golf club no chemicals have been used on the grass for 35 years. In summer look out for butterflies and grasshoppers.

-  Park Boundary
-  Red Route
▲ Slopes on this path
2.75km | 45 minutes
-  Blue Route
Easy Access
1.3km | 20 minutes
-  Rough Tracks
-  Dog Dip
-  Pond
-  Boat House
-  Picnic Area
-  The Phil Haskell Wildlife Garden
-  Toilets



The Phil Haskell Wildlife Garden

This dog free area was once part of a formal garden and contains a diverse mix of native and cultivated plants along with several ponds.

Douster and Island Ponds

In Victorian times, the park was owned by Mr Phillippe Saillard, a wealthy French businessman. His wealth came from the sale of playing cards and ostrich feathers for ladies hats. Mr Saillard established Island and Douster ponds by damming Douster Brook. The old boat house and overspill cascade can still be seen today.

Please take care around the ponds
No swimming or boating
Dogs may only swim at the Island Pond Dog Dip

Target Hill Heath

Part of the hill was used as a rifle range in the 19th century and the remains of the stop butts lie close to the golf course. In 1823 William Cobbett, a political commentator rode through Buchan Hill. He describes the "two miserable miles" as "a bare heath with here and there some scrubby birch. It is a most villainous tract". Today the bare heath is valued as a habitat for reptiles and in August heather turns the hill purple.

 Please be considerate of the local wildlife living in the park and keep dogs under close control and in sight! at all times. Thank you.