

Alton Water

Suffolk's largest lake with meadows, woodlands, ponds and picnic sites

Alton Water is a surprisingly diverse destination with small ponds, broad leaf woods, small inlets and bays, marshes, bird hides and a very active sailing centre.

During the year the lake hosts many events from the Great East Swim to the Alton Water 10k race, but remains a wonderful haven for peaceful walks, picnics and bird watching throughout the whole year.

There is an 8 mile (13km) circular path offering many different views of the lake, the surrounding landscape and the wide variety of wildlife. During the day you will see many ducks, geese and swans. At dusk look out for barn owls, silently flying around the lakes' edge looking for their next meal.

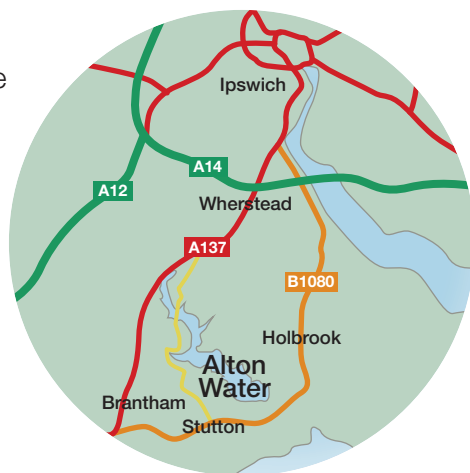


Facilities

- **Parking** – charges apply, dedicated accessible bays at visitor centre
- **Toilets** – accessible toilet at visitor centre
- **Café** – seasonal
- **Picnic area**

Directions

- 4 miles south of Ipswich signed from the A137. The entrance is off the B1080 in Stutton village.
- **Visitor Centre** 01473 328 268
Post Code IP9 2RY



■ Easy access trail 1.5 miles/2.4km (each way)



Much of the route around the lake is surfaced but the section closest to the visitor centre is the most accessible with a more level and firm path.

An easy destination is Larch Wood and The Wonder, west of the visitor centre. The walk is on a compacted gravel path with some short tarmac sections where the route is more undulating.

Off the path are many grassy tracks leading to the water's edge, all worth exploring, with many benches where you can relax and enjoy the wonderful views.



■■■ Easy going trail 8miles/13km (full circuit)



The area to the north of the lake is often quieter and well worth exploring. It is more hilly on this side and the path is a much looser surface and can get muddy in places, especially in bad weather. Don't miss the bird hide and tern rafts near Lemons Bay.

