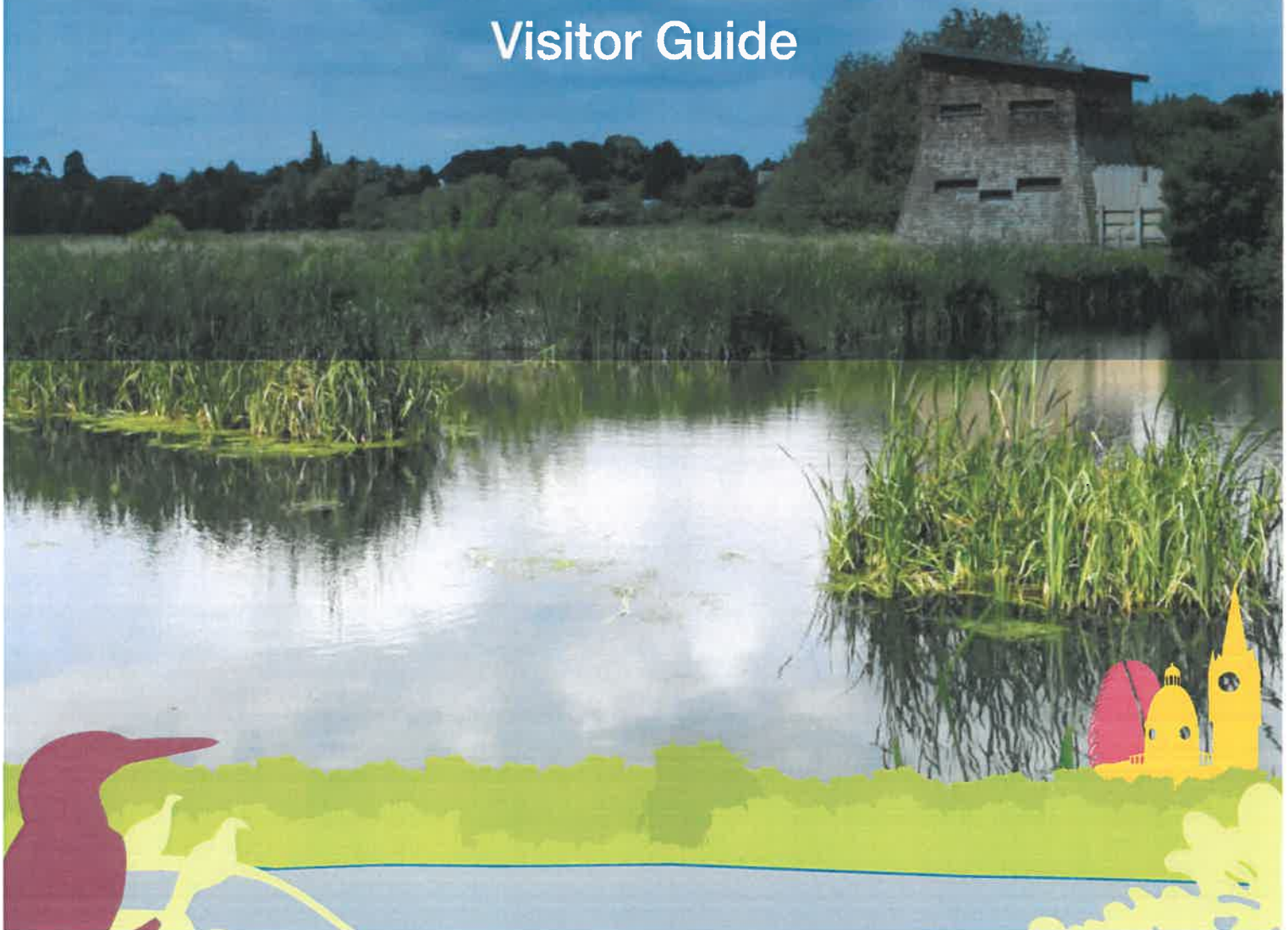




# Watermead Country Park

Visitor Guide



Watermead Country Park offers visitors a wide range of opportunities to explore and enjoy a range of habitats. There is an extensive network of trails for walking and cycling, many of which are suitable for all abilities. Take a stroll through woodland, grassland and wildflower meadows and visit the peaceful nature reserves with their bird hides and wonderful views over the reed beds, marshland and lakes.

## History

Sand and gravel for the concrete industry were extracted from the valley of the River Soar for many years. In the early 1980s the Leicestershire County, Leicester City and Charnwood Borough Councils joined forces to acquire the area's derelict pits and improve them for people to enjoy quiet recreation in attractive countryside.

When the pits were active there were several important archaeological discoveries. Two human skulls, probably dating from the Bronze Age, and the bones of an Aurochs, a primitive wild ox, were found on the other side of the river from King Lear's Lake and prehistoric remains of mammoth, horse, bison and deer thought to date back to the ice age were discovered in the south of the park.



There was also a "burnt mound" which was a type of cooking stove. Stones were heated in a fire and then plunged into water to produce steam and hot water to cook food.

## Environment and Nature Watermead Country Park things to see and do

Surfaced paths throughout the park provide an opportunity for walking, running and cycling, and many seats along these trails are ideal places for visitors to sit and enjoy the general peace and quiet.

Families visiting the park can enjoy the animal sculptures and play areas along with the Mammoth and the Climate Trail. There are also designated picnic areas and open spaces for various activities.

Other activities such as windsurfing and sailing can be enjoyed in the park through local clubs.



Watermead Country Park is a haven for wildlife, offering a wide range of wetland habitats including extensive reed beds, wet woodland, wild flower meadows, rough grassland, open water and ponds. The country park is one of the best sites in Leicestershire for bird watching and nature study. As well as the Reed Bed Nature Reserve at the north end of the park, visitors can enjoy the Birstall Nature Reserve and Watermead South Nature Reserve.

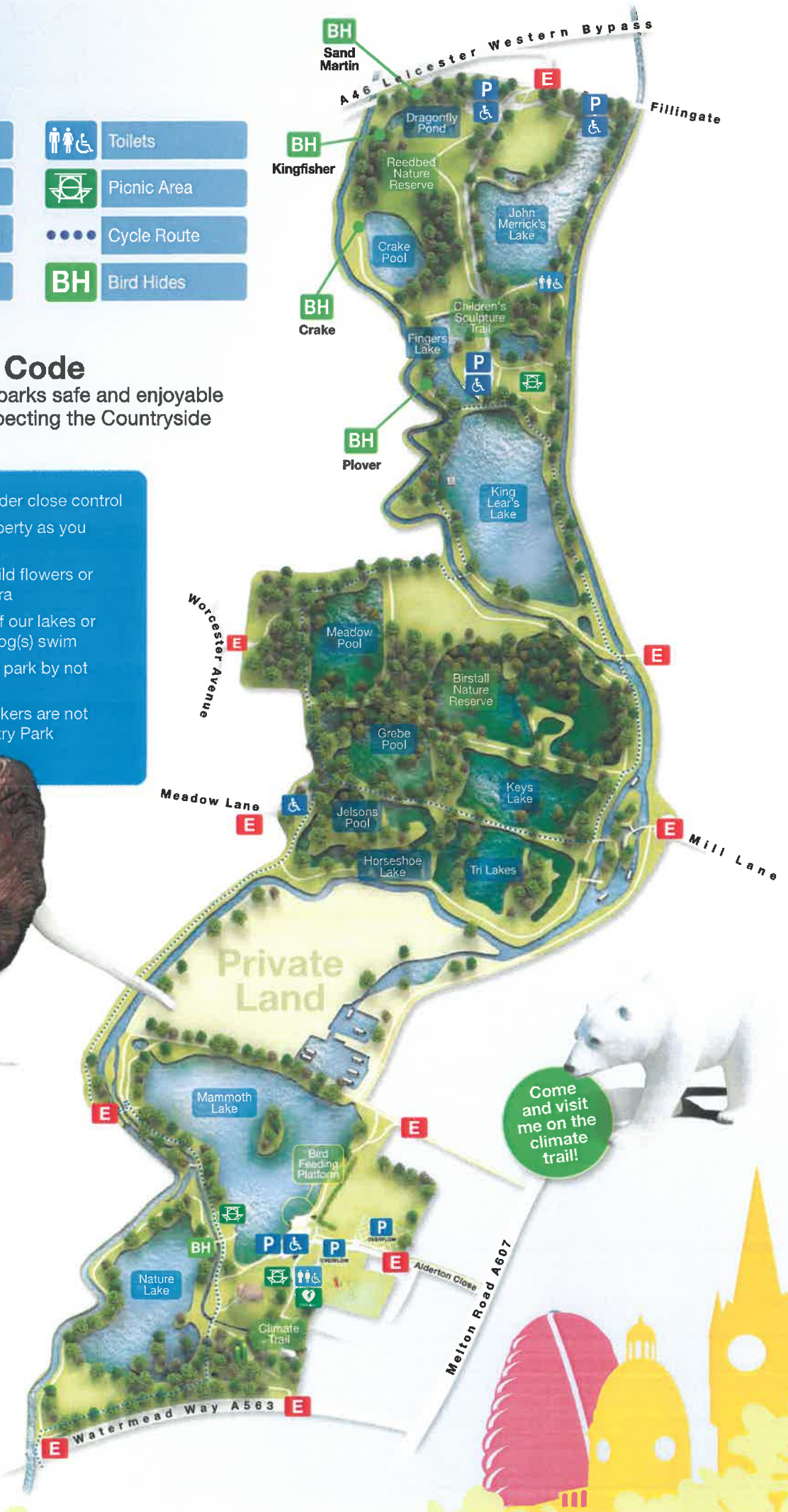


<b>E</b>	Entrances		Toilets
<b>P</b>	Car Parking		Picnic Area
	Disabled Parking		Cycle Route
	AED Defibrillator	<b>BH</b>	Bird Hides

## Countryside Code

Help us to keep our parks safe and enjoyable for all visitors by respecting the Countryside Code and byelaws.

- Please keep dogs under close control
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Please do not pick wild flowers or remove any other flora
- Do not swim in any of our lakes or ponds, nor let your dog(s) swim
- Please safeguard the park by not lighting fires
- BBQ's and flame cookers are not allowed on the Country Park



Come and visit me on the climate trail!

