

Three Brooks

Local Nature Reserve

Woodlands

The reserve contains three woodlands, namely Webb's Wood, Savage's Wood and Sherbourne's Brake. Webb's Wood can be dated as far back as 1725, making it an ancient woodland. The other two woodlands are about 200 years old.

Webb's Wood is a dark and dense woodland. Its understorey of hazel, hawthorn and field maple provides homes for small songbirds. It has wonderful displays of bluebells and anemones in spring.



young great spotted woodpecker

Savage's Wood is the largest area of woodland. It is light and spacious, with plenty of mature, tall trees. There are also several standing dead trees, in which woodpeckers love to drill for insects and make their homes – look out for the round holes they make in the bark.

Sherbourne's Brake, growing along Stoke Brook, is different again – water-loving crack willows grow here, as do tall, rustling black poplars and even some apple trees. In autumn, look out for the bristly acorn cups of the turkey oaks growing at the wood's summit.

Traditional woodland management methods, including coppicing are being reintroduced to all three woods to help increase wildlife diversity.

Wetlands



little grebe

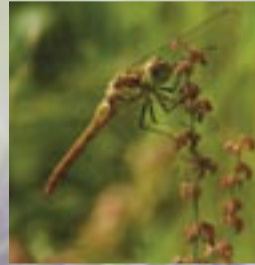
Hortham, Patchway and Stoke Brooks, from which the reserve gets its name, meet at Three Brooks Lake before flowing eastwards back under the M4 as Bradley Brook.

The lake itself is man-made, formed by damming the merging brooks, and has a healthy fish population, as well as attracting many birds including wintering water rail.

The reserve also has two new ponds in the grassland to the north of Savage's Wood, which have been created to become habitats for newts. Pond snails, dragonflies and frogs have already moved in!



female mallard with her ducklings



common darter dragonfly

Grasslands



burnet moth

The reserve's grasslands host a huge variety of wildflowers, many of which are arable plants reflecting the area's farming past.

The man-made Tump (an old word for "hillock") is a good place to see skylarks, with their graceful song,

in summer. The grassland next to **Webb's Wood** is particularly good for wildflowers and is traditionally cut by hand to maintain its variety.



ox-eye daisy



arable plants including peas

Three Brooks Local Nature Reserve



The Three Brooks Local Nature Reserve is a valuable wildspace that people living in Bradley Stoke can enjoy all year round.

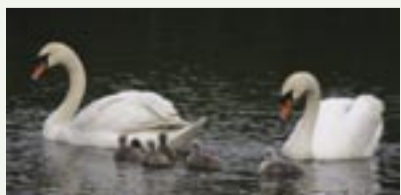
The reserve forms a large part of the town and consists of many different wildlife habitats including the Three Brooks lake, bluebell woodlands, newt ponds, acres of grassland and of course the small brooks that feed into the lake. It is home to a great variety of animals and wildflowers.



The reserve holds clues to the history of the area. Traditional management of the woodlands, such as coppicing have now been brought back and help create

open glades in the woods providing space for old oak trees to grow strong and bluebells and other spring flowering plants to flourish.

The grassland strips that flower in the summer reveal rare agricultural weeds and flowers. The broad hedgerows that provide food and shelter for animals have been dated back to Saxon times and act as important wildlife corridors into the reserve.



The lake provides a peaceful setting for people to study the local wildfowl. You can regularly

spot swans, mallards, tufted ducks and moorhens nesting on the islands. A quick glance of a blue flash means you have spotted a kingfisher!

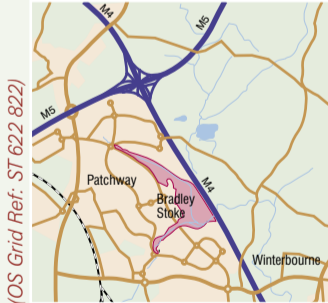
Three Brooks Local Nature Reserve

The woodlands, wetlands and grasslands that make up the reserve, were designated as a local nature reserve in recognition of their value to the local community as a site of nature conservation importance.

The site is owned by South Gloucestershire Council and is managed in partnership with local community groups and organisations including Bradley Stoke Town Council.

For further information visit www.three-brooks.info

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(OS Grid Ref: ST 622 822)

Where it is and how to get there

The reserve is in the heart of Bradley Stoke and forms part of the Forest of Avon.

www.forestofavon.org



On foot and cycle

There are several entrances into the reserve that allow access to the woodlands and wetlands. The reserve is also accessible from Bradley Stoke Leisure Centre and library, where there are many facilities including toilets and a café. Please refer to the map inside for access points and paths.



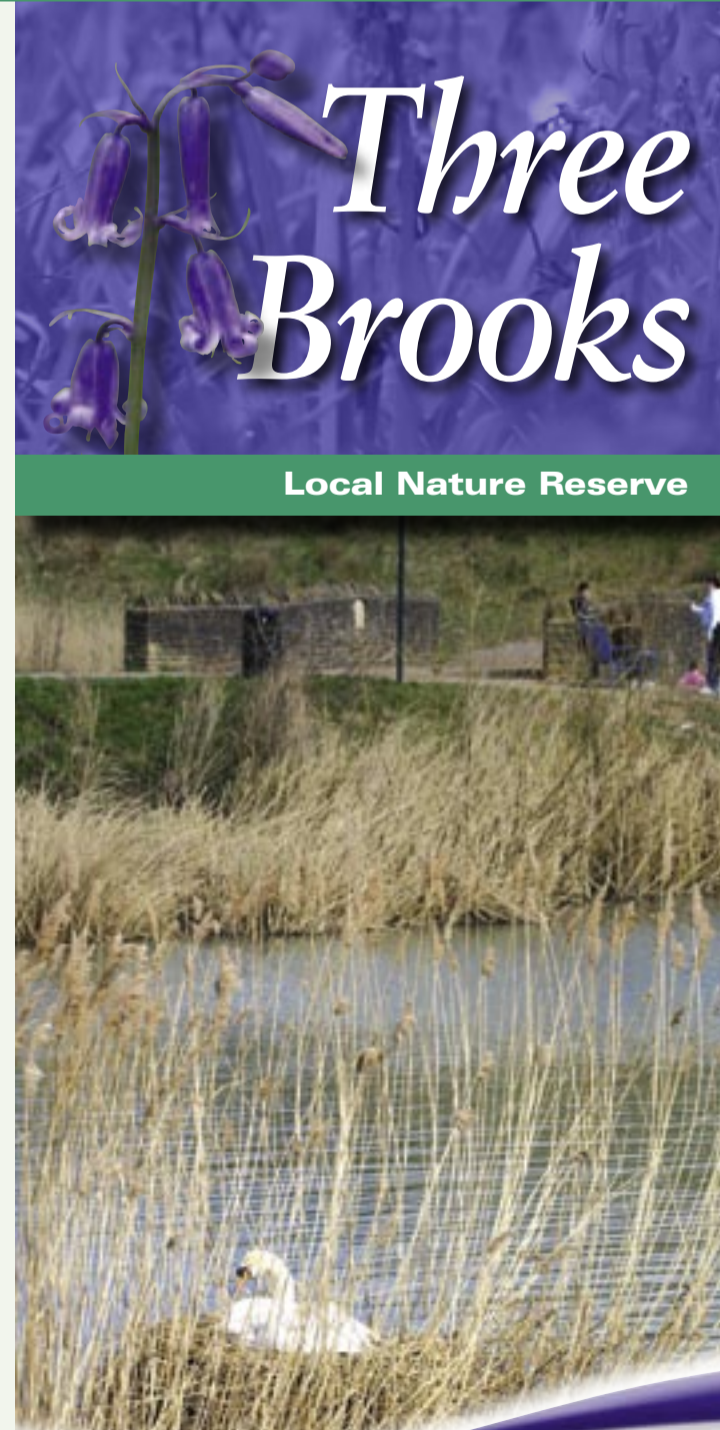
By bus and train

There are nearby bus stops for services within the town and from the wider area including Bristol and Parkway railway station.

www.traveline.org.uk

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