

Find out more

If you have any questions about the zoned areas or the wildlife, ask one of the BBOWT Seasonal Wardens who are on-site during the bird-nesting season, early morning, evening and weekends.

The Secret Seven leaflet about the birds of the Common is available from the Seasonal Wardens, the WBC Ranger and the Nature Discovery Centre at Thatcham.

To discover more about the birds and other wildlife of the Common, join a free guided walk leaving from the Control Tower car-park **from the end of April to the end of July**. Just turn up! Dogs on a lead are welcome.

See www.naturediscovery.org.uk for WBC Countryside Events or call **01635 874381**.

Please contact the WBC Countryside Service if you have any queries or comments about the Common on **01635 519080** or customerservices@westberks.gov.uk

Greenham & Crookham Commons are owned by West Berkshire Council and are part of the West Berkshire Living Landscape partnership with BBOWT. For information about BBOWT, the West Berkshire Living Landscape, and BBOWT events, see www.bbowl.org.uk



Photo: A Hickman



Photo: Rob Appleby

The ponies and cattle

The ponies and the cattle are an important part of the management of the Common. By grazing, they assist with maintaining the heathland, preventing it scrubbing over and eventually becoming woodland. They continue to graze during the bird-nesting season, helping to maintain the conditions the birds need for feeding, nesting and rearing young.

The Exmoor ponies are a conservation breed owned by WBC. They are well-suited to the harsh conditions of the heathland and will eat gorse, heather and birch scrub. The cattle are owned by Commoners with grazing rights on the Common.

Please keep dogs on a lead near the grazing animals at all times of the year.

General Regulations for Access on the Commons

Greenham and Crookham Commons are covered by the Countryside & Rights Of Way Act 2000. The following are based on Schedule 2, section 2 of the Act - General Restrictions. They apply to all parts of the Common:

It is an offence to:

1. Camp or light fires.
2. Intentionally or recklessly take, kill, injure or disturb any animal, bird, nest, egg, plant, shrub, tree or root.
3. Fly any kite or model aircraft between the 1st March and the 31st July.
4. Fly any noisy model aircraft at all times of year.
5. Use a metal detector.
6. Release or move any animal, bird, fish or plant.
7. Disturb or damage any fences, gates, cattle grids, signs or structures.
8. Allow a dog to roam off a lead on open heathland or grassland, or in woodland between the 1st March and the 31st July.
9. Erect notices or advertisements.
10. Engage in any commercial activity.
11. Carry any firearm or compressed air weapon.
12. Feed, disturb or interfere with the livestock.
13. Unauthorised motorised vehicles are not permitted on the Common, apart from invalid carriages as defined by section 20(2) of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970 and these are restricted to defined paths on the Common.

Welcome to Greenham and Crookham Common



Main Photo: Rob Appleby, Inset Photo: A Hickman

West Berkshire Living Landscape Partnership

Berkshire Buckinghamshire Oxfordshire



West Berkshire COUNCIL



Well-camouflaged nests

During spring and summer we share the Common with some of Britain's rare and endangered ground-nesting birds, such as lapwing and woodlark.

The Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) and West Berkshire Council (WBC) are working together to help protect and increase the numbers of these rare birds.

Many factors influence the success of breeding birds, including food supply, predation and the weather. Limiting our disturbance to these birds will help them face these natural pressures. Disturbance can cause eggs to be chilled, or taken by predators such as crows.

To help all visitors to continue to enjoy the Common whilst leaving the birds to nest undisturbed, clearly marked zones are in place from March 1st until July 31st:

 **RED ZONE: No access for all visitors.** The most sensitive areas where the birds tend to nest. All visitors are asked to keep out of these areas.

 **GREEN ZONE: Dog friendly areas.** Unrestricted access, dogs can be exercised off the lead and each area includes a pool for dogs. If the cattle or ponies are in this area, please keep your dog on a lead until they have moved off.

In all other areas, visitors are asked to keep to the main paths and to keep dogs close by during the bird-nesting season.



Little Ringed Plover

Sherie New. www.seeing.org



Meadow Pipit

Mike Taylor. www.seeing.org



Lapwing

Sherie New. www.seeing.org



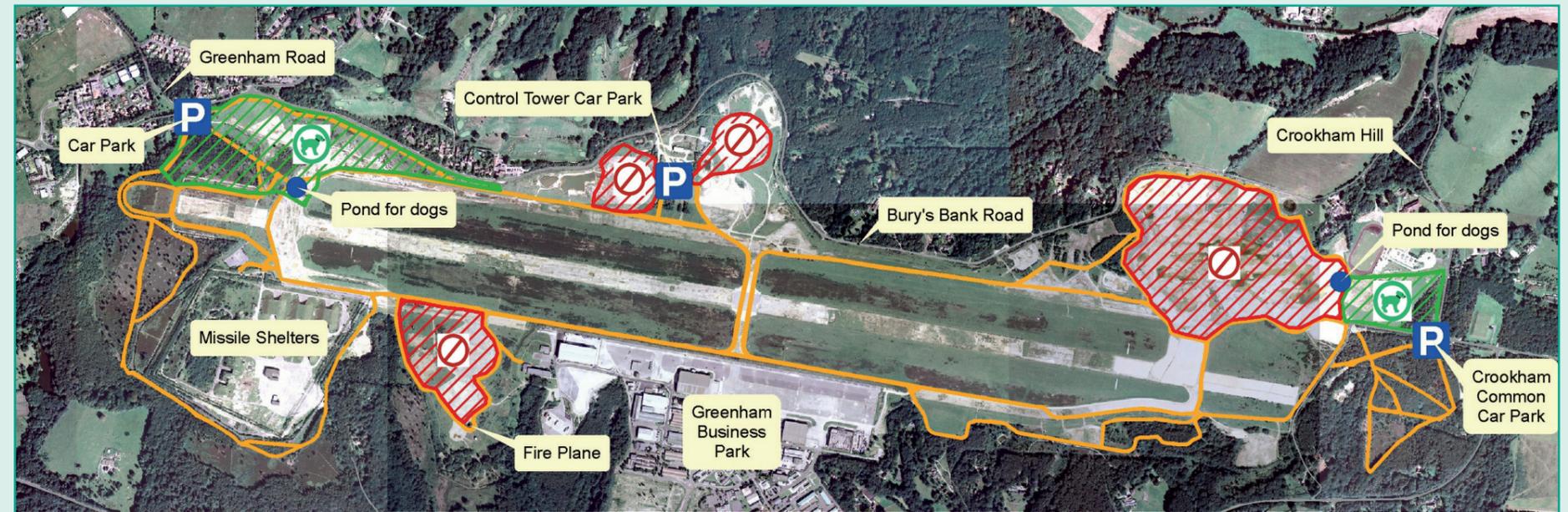
Skylark

Sherie New. www.seeing.org



Stonechat

Tony House. www.seeing.org



 **Red Zone: No access for all visitors**

 **Green Zone: Dog friendly areas**

 **Main paths**



Ringed Plover

Sherie New. www.seeing.org



Woodlark

Marek Walford



Redshank

Terry Longley. www.seeing.org



Dartford Warbler

Andy Bright



Nightjar

Katie Fuller

