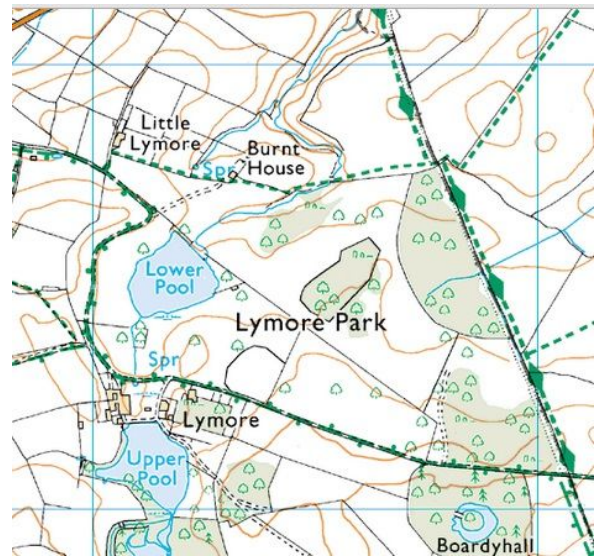


## Places to Visit - Lymore Pools, Montgomery - by Paul Leafe

Lymore Pools is a set of medium sized lakes on the outskirts of Montgomery town. As well as the pools, a circular walk will take you through some broadleaf woodland and along the edges of some arable farm land.

Lymore Pools are best accessed by parking in the town car park at SO22469629, and following the public footpath behind the football pitch towards Lymore itself.

Like Most places, depending on what time of year you visit will depend on what you are likely to see. While autumn and winter months are better for viewing wildfowl on the pools, spring and summer are great times to walk through the woodlands and along the field edges.



What's about:

Autumn/winter: As summer comes to an end wildfowl numbers start to increase. Good numbers of Mallard, Teal and Wigeon can be seen along with the odd Gadwall, Pochard and Tufted Duck. Other users of the lake include Little Grebe, Moorhen, Water Rail and Coot (the latter can get up to 150+ birds some years). Snipe, Jack Snipe and Green Sandpiper can also be found feeding along the pool edges. Although noticeable fewer species, the woodlands can still hold some good birds during this time of year, keep an eye out for Siskins and Redpolls and the odd Brambling amongst the Chaffinches. Woodcock are occasionally seen flying from the undergrowth too.

Spring/summer: As spring arrives, the woodlands come alive with bird songs. Expect to see/hear Garden Warbler, Blackcap, Whitethroat, Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler, Spotted and Pied Flycatcher and Redstart as well as several of our more common species. The farmland also holds several notable species including Yellowhammer, Yellow Wagtail, Stock Dove, Cuckoo and even Quail. The pools are a bit quieter around this time of year but the small reedbeds can sometimes hold Reed and Sedge Warbler. In the evenings Swallows, Martins and Swift fly low over the pools and this occasionally attract Hobbies and Sparrowhawks.

Rarities: Lymore Pools is very underwatched, and a number of more scarce birds probably go unseen, however in 2012 a juvenile Glossy Ibis (pictured right) spent several months using the pools and surrounding area. Who knows what else could be hidden away?

