

Belfast WOW

Finding your way around

To discover what makes Belfast WOW such a special place for nature, start exploring today.

Take in wonderful close-up views of the wildlife here from the comfort of the visitor centre, or from the hides nearby.

Enjoy your day, and if you would like to know more about the reserve, please pop in to see us at the visitor centre.

Walk to the hides

This short trail leads to our two hides. It takes just a few minutes to reach the roadside hide, and a further five minutes to get to the track-side hide, which looks back across the lagoon towards the visitor centre.

As you walk alongside the lough, listen out for the commotion on the tern rafts. Arctic and common terns flock here in spring and summer to pair up and raise their chicks, before heading back south for the winter.

In winter, the lough comes alive with ducks and geese escaping the harsh weather further north.

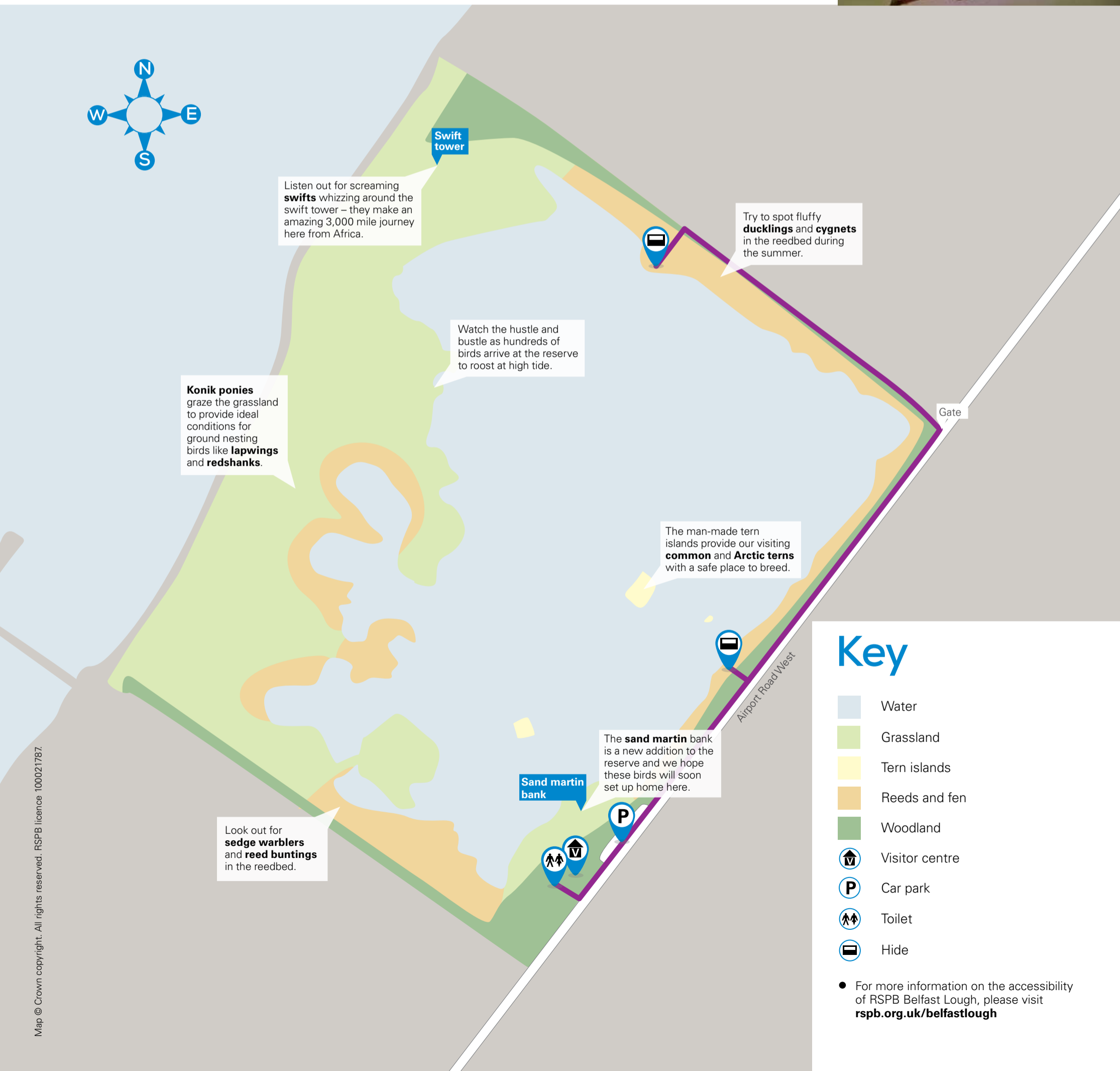
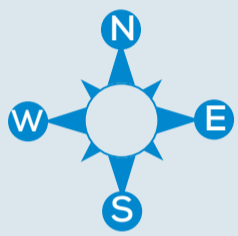


Teals and other ducks flock to the lough in winter

Green-veined white butterfly

Chris Knights (rspb-images.com)

Oliver Smart (rspb-images.com)



Listen out for screaming **swifts** whizzing around the swift tower – they make an amazing 3,000 mile journey here from Africa.

Swift tower

Try to spot fluffy **ducklings** and **cygnets** in the reedbed during the summer.

Watch the hustle and bustle as hundreds of birds arrive at the reserve to roost at high tide.

Konik ponies graze the grassland to provide ideal conditions for ground nesting birds like **lapwings** and **redshanks**.

The man-made tern islands provide our visiting **common** and **Arctic terns** with a safe place to breed.

The **sand martin** bank is a new addition to the reserve and we hope these birds will soon set up home here.

Sand martin bank

Look out for **sedge warblers** and **reed buntings** in the reedbed.

Key

- Water
- Grassland
- Tern islands
- Reeds and fen
- Woodland
- Visitor centre
- Car park
- Toilet
- Hide

• For more information on the accessibility of RSPB Belfast Lough, please visit rspb.org.uk/belfastlough