

This access statement does not contain personal opinions as to our suitability for those with access needs, but aims to accurately describe the facilities and services that we offer all our guests/visitors.

## Access Statement for RSPB Blacktoft Sands

### Introduction

On the south bank of the River Ouse, at the upper end of the Humber estuary, sits this wetland reserve of tidal reedbed and open water. Home to bitterns, marsh harriers and bearded tits at one of their more northerly outposts. The reception hut and row of six hides offers close views of the reserves wildlife. All trails and hides are accessible, although the path to Ousefleet hide is grassed, is a bit rough in places and may be difficult during wet conditions.

Further details about the reserve and what you can see and do can be found on our website at [www.rspb.org.uk/blacktoftsands](http://www.rspb.org.uk/blacktoftsands).

We look forward to welcoming you. If you have any queries or require any assistance please phone 01405 704665 or email [blacktoft.sands@rspb.org.uk](mailto:blacktoft.sands@rspb.org.uk).

### Pre-Arrival

- For a map and directions on how to reach us please see the 'How to get here' section on our website, which has a link for sat navs. Alternatively, you can plan your journey by public transport or car using [www.transportdirect.info](http://www.transportdirect.info); simply enter your postcode and ours, which is DN14 8HR to get directions.
- The nearest railway station is Goole, which is 8 miles away.
- From Goole's North Street (near the leisure centre) you can catch the Goole to Scunthorpe bus. For a full timetable see [www.eyms.co.uk](http://www.eyms.co.uk)
- The reception hide is open daily April to September and at weekends only October to March 9am to 4pm. **The reserve is open daily (except Christmas Day) from 9am to 9pm (or dusk if earlier).**
- There is a charge for entry to the reserve for non-members of £4 adults, £3 concessions, £1 for under 16s and £7 for families during reception opening times.
- Free entry for carers and access to the reserve to registered assistance dogs.

## **Car Parking Facilities and Arrival**

- There are 3 accessible parking spaces situated 100 m from the reception hut entrance. These are located by following the main track through the gap in the hedge and the spaces are located opposite the picnic benches.
- There is space for 30 cars in the main car park located immediately after turning off the main road which is surfaced with crushed limestone. There is space for a further 30 cars in the overspill car park, located through gap in hedge along main track. The overflow car park is surfaced with grass.
- There is a drop off point outside the reception hide, continue along track over sea wall (bank) beyond the toilet block.
- The Toilet block is found in car park on route to the reception hide.
- To get to reception follow the crushed limestone track over the sea wall with gradients of 1:15 (42m) and 1:20 (16m).
- The reception is accessed via a slight slope
- There is a double door entrance to reception when fully open is 1600mm / 64 inches wide.

## **Visitor Centre**

- The reception hide has no electricity, has a wooden floor and has two levels.
- The lower level provides some information about the reserve and is where all visitors should show memberships or pay entrance fee when reception is open. Hot drinks and some snacks are available on this level.
- The upper level is reached via a 1:20 ramp and has further information about the reserve. From here a large picture window gives excellent views of the reedbed. An adjustable telescope and binoculars are available here for visitors use.
- During reception opening times, staff / volunteers are on hand to provide any assistance.
- A push wheelchair can be borrowed (free of charge) for use on the reserve.
- Binoculars are available for hire (£2 for the day).
- Telescopes are available for hire (£4 for the day)

- There are a variety of events available throughout the year: please ask staff for more details including accessibility.

## **Nature Trails**

- The Trails and hides are signposted.
- The main trail takes in five viewing hides, which are all suitable for wheelchairs. This is a linear trail that takes in two hides to the west of reception with the furthest being 250m away and takes in three hides to the east of reception, furthest 400m. This trail is surfaced with crushed limestone.
- The Ousefleet trail is a total of 800m from reception and leads to Ousefleet hide. Initially, it follows the main trail before heading away from it between Xerox and Marshland hide. From here the trail is surfaced with grass, is a bit rough in places and may be difficult during wet conditions.
- Most parts of the trails are 2000 mm wide, with some small sections being 1400mm wide (particular during last section of Ousefleet trail).
- Wooden benches are found at regular intervals along both trails and between hides. These benches vary in design with most having backs.
- A map of the trails is available at the reception desk

## **Viewing Facilities**

- There are 6 wildlife viewing hides available on the reserve. All have space for wheelchair access. Also one viewing screen which is not accessible to wheelchair users.
- First hide (upper seating area only accessible via steps) - is 90m from the reception and is accessed via a 1:20 ramp and has fixed benches.
- Townend hide (all on one level) - is 200m from the reception and is accessed via a 1:8 easing to 1:20 ramp and has fixed benches.
- Singleton hide (all on one level) - is 400m from the reception and is accessed via 1:20 ramp and has fixed benches.

- Xerox hide (upper seating are only accessible via steps) - is 140m from the reception and is accessed via a gentle 1:100 ramp and has fixed benches.
- Marshland hide (all on one level) is 250m from the reception hide and is accessed via a 1:20 wooden boardwalk ramp with passing place at top and double handrails. This hide has moveable benches.
- Ousefleet hide (all on one level) is 800m from the reception hide and is accessed via a 1:20 ramp and has fixed benches.
- The doors to all hides are 900mm/36ins wide and easy to open with a lever handle.

### **Public Toilets**

- Toilets are located in the car park near the accessible car-parking bays.
- These toilets have a unisex accessible toilet, open to all and described below:
- An easy to open door at 860mm/34.4ins wide.
- 1400mm/56ins transfer space to the left of the toilet, when facing the toilet.
- Toilet height is 430mm/17.2ins.
- Adaptable handrails on either side of the toilet.
- An emergency alarm pull cord.
- No electricity, so no lighting.
- Tile flooring.
- Lever taps on the sink.
- Baby changing facilities available.

### **Catering**

- There is a small selection of drinks and snacks available from the lower level in the reception hut when open. Help is available from staff / volunteer on duty.

- A greater selection of refreshments can be found at various locations in Goole, 8 miles away.

### **Picnic Area**

- The picnic area is found in the car park opposite the accessible car-parking bays.
- There 3 picnic benches and 2 benches at the picnic area (1 with space for wheelchair users).
- A small selection of drinks and snacks are available at reception; however, visitors are free to bring their own refreshments with them for a picnic.

### **Future Plans**

- We are planning to upgrade the information boards in reception during the next year.

<b>Contact Information</b> Address (Inc postcode):	RSPB Blacktoft Sands, Hillcrest, Whitgift, Goole, DN14 8HL.
Telephone:	01405 704665
Email:	blacktoft.sands@rspb.org.uk
Website:	www.rspb.org.uk/blacktoftsands
Grid Reference:	SE 843 232
Hours Of Operation:	Reception when open 9am to 4pm, reserve 9am to 9pm (or dusk if earlier). <b>Closed Christmas day.</b>