



giving
nature
a home

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 Burton Mere Wetland RSPB Reserve

Introduction

Burton Mere Wetland is a mixture of restored wetland habitats and bluebell woodland and is part of the much wider RSPB Dee Estuary nature reserve. It is situated within the limits of Burton Village in Cheshire, on relatively quiet country lanes, that are slightly undulating. This part of the reserve has been designed with universal access in mind with provision of Accessible toilets, picnic benches, nature trails and hides all close to the main Visitor reception.

We look forward to welcoming you. If you have any queries or require any assistance please phone 01654 700222 or email ynys-hir@rspb.org.uk.

Pre-Arrival

- For a map and directions of 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; simply enter your postcode and ours, which is CH64 5SF to get directions.
- By train - Neston (3.4 miles) and Hooton (4.3 miles) are the nearest. Taxi's are readily available from both these stations.
- There is no longer a bus service to Burton village. The nearest bus stop is in Ness Botanic Gardens, 1.5 miles from the reserve entrance.
- Large print information leaflet is available on request.
- Our reception building is open between 9.30 am and 5 pm. The reserve is open between 9 am and 9 pm, or dusk if sooner. We are open every day except Christmas Day.
- Carers are given free entry
- Only Registered Assistance Dogs allowed

Car Parking Facilities and Arrival

- There are 7 signed blue badge free parking spaces situated 30 m from the Reception building entrance.
- The car park, with 87 spaces, is near to the reception building and a short distance to the entrance.
- Free entry to RSPB Members. Non members admission charges apply.
- The car park surface is loose gravel. The car park is not lit at night.
- There is a drop off point 30m from the reception building.

Visitor Centre

- There is one entrance leading to the Visitor Centre. There is a large, easy to use double door at the entrance, which is 2290mm/90ins wide, no threshold, which pull open.
- The main entrance and ticket area is situated on the ground floor with step free, level entry. There is step free, level access throughout. The floor surface is smooth, even surface. The area is evenly and well lit.
- Staff can give assistance and read out any literature if required.
- Binoculars are available for hire.
- Large print information displays can be viewed from a seated/child's eye position.
- There are a variety of events and activities available throughout the year: please ask staff for more details including accessibility.

Nature Trails

- The reserve has a mix of different types of paths two of three are flat with few undulations where walks can be enjoyed. All trails are signposted.
- Three trails can be followed (the times to complete depends on your pace and wildlife watching):
 - The Gorse Covert Woodland trail covers 800 m and can take about 20 mins to 60 mins to complete. It is unsurfaced and can get muddy in wet weather.

- The Burton Mere trail covers 900 m and can take between 10 mins to 60 mins approximately to complete. It is level, compact gravel surface.
- The Reed and Fen trail covers 900 m and can take between 15 mins to 60 mins to complete. It is level, compact gravel surface.
- A large boardwalk ramp with anti-slip material provides a transition from the Burton Mere trail to the Reed and Fen trail.
- There is enough space along Burton Mere and Reed and Fen trails for 2 wheelchairs to pass, except for one section of the Burton Mere trail that is narrow, with four layby for passing.

Viewing facilities

- The main reception building provides great views across the wetland with large picture windows. There is level entry throughout.
- There are viewpoints along each of the trails. A hide is on the Reed and Fen trail.
- Seating is available at every viewpoint and at intervals of approx. every 100m/328ft on all trails. A variety of seating is available not all have back and arm rests.
- Interpretation boards are placed along the routes but these vary in size and some have large print and illustrations. All information boards can be read from a child's eye/seated position.
- The entry to Marsh Covert hide has a short ramp. The doors the Marsh Covert hides is 900mm/35.5'wide, easy to open with a lever handle, This is a large family oriented hide with moveable benches. There are some large fixed windows offering good views. Some windows open outward and can be quite heavy. The upper windows open inwards and upwards and can be quite heavy.

Public Toilets

- Public toilets are located near to the Visitor Centre with level access to them.
- These toilets have a unisex accessible toilet, open to all and described below:
 - A light, easy open door 900mm/35.5ins wide.

- 750mm/29.5ins transfer space to the left of the toilet, when facing the toilet.
- Toilet height is 450mm/17.7ins.
- Vertical rails either side of both basin and toilet.
- Horizontal rail on the side wall adjacent to the toilet.
- Colour contrast with critical surfaces; handrails are blue and toilet and washbasin are white.
- A flashing light when the fire alarm sounds.
- An emergency alarm pull cord.
- Well lit with automatic fluorescent tube overhead lighting.
- Non-slip tile flooring.
- Lever taps on the sink.
- There is a baby changing table that folds down for use.

Cafe

- Light refreshments are available in the main visitor building/reception including chilled water, hot drinks and snacks.

Picnic

- There are 4 picnic tables, two are immediately next to the Car Park the other is 500m, or approx. a 5min walk from the Visitor Centre.
- There are 2 picnic tables with space for a wheelchair user
- Snacks and drinks are available from the visitor building; however, visitors are free to bring their own refreshments with them for picnics.

Contact Information

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