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 Geltsdale nature reserve

Introduction
RSPB Geltsdale reserve contains 5000 hectares of heather moorland and farmland. Wildlife highlights include breeding waders, black grouse and miles of open space.

The reserve is situated in the North Pennines AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) and the nearest town is Brampton in Cumbria.

The reserve centre is situated in a valley with a steep descent down a rough track. Further details about the reserve can be found on our website [http://www.rspb.org.uk/reserves/guide/g/geltsdale/](http://www.rspb.org.uk/reserves/guide/g/geltsdale/).

We look forward to welcoming you. If you have any queries or require assistance please phone 01697 746717 or Email: [geltsdale@rspb.org.uk](mailto:geltsdale@rspb.org.uk)
**Pre Arrival**

- The nearest railway station is Brampton Junction, approximately 3 miles from the reserve.
- Buses travel to Brampton town centre, approximately 3.5 miles from the reserve.
- Brampton Cars has an accessible taxi if pre-booked (016977 3386).
- The reserve is open at all times. The visitor centre is open from 9-5 daily. Entrance is free of charge.
- Dogs on leads are welcome.
- There is currently no large print or audio information available.

**Car Parking Facilities and Arrival**

- Car parking is free of charge. There are 8 spaces at the reserve carpark where seating and interpretation can be found.

- Two accessible car parking spaces are available outside the visitor centre.

- These are reached by opening a 12 foot (3.6m) wide gate and driving 1 mile along an uneven track with a severe gradient. Occassionally two additional 12 foot (3.6m) gates need to be opened along this track.
• The accessible parking is situated 85 feet (26 metres) from the visitor centre entrance. The approach is paved, unkerbed and unlit. This is a suitable drop off point.

• The approach to the visitor centre is paved with a 5 foot (1.5 metre) gate. The path has a 1:10 gradient at its steepest point. There is a wooden handrail 3.5 feet (1.1 metres) high leading to the gate. There are no steps.

The Visitor Centre

• The centre is open from 9am – 5pm daily. You can alert staff by use of a doorbell (5 foot/1.6m high) located within the visitor centre.
• The entrance door is manual with a rounded metal and rubber threshold of 3 inches (75mm) wide, 0.75 inch (20mm) high. The door is of medium weight, needing a firm push to open it.

• The door opens inward with a clear opening width of 30 inches (760mm).

• The visitor centre is level throughout with no steps. The floor is surfaced with uneven slate flagstones. Movable chairs are available.

• There is no reception counter or ticketing area. There is no hearing loop system.

• The centre is lit with fluorescent tubing and the art gallery has spotlights. All lights are manually operated.

• Information on the walls is in clear print format. Signage is limited. The reserve newsletter includes event details. A trail guide is available from the visitor centre and from the leaflet dispenser at the entrance carpark.
Trails

Stagsike Trail

- This circular trail is almost three miles in length and starts in the reserve carpark. Allow 1-2 hours to complete. It is signposted in red and is drawn in red in the Geltsdale trail guide.

- The trail follows uneven tracks and grassy paths through farmland with some muddy patches.

- Halfway along the trail, 600 feet (200 metres) from the visitor centre, the trail reaches a ford. This is spanned by a bridge 17 inches (430 mm) wide with a handrail and a step up of 9 inches (230mm). The trail has 2 other bridges; one 30 inches (660 mm) wide, the other 8.5 foot (2.6m) wide, both without a handrail.
• There are four field gates along the trail to open; three twelve foot (3.6m) wide and one nine foot (2.7m) wide. There is a five foot (1.5m) wide gate which can be used to avoid a cattle grid. All the gates on this trail are fitted with accessible latches. In addition there is a kissing gate next to a cattle grid at the trail end.

• Two thirds of the trail follows a stony track 6.5 feet (2m) wide, also used by the reserve vehicles.

• The trail passes a viewing screen at Tindale Tarn after almost a mile. The visitor centre is reached in just over one mile. This trail has some seating but has no interpretation.
Woodland Trail

- This is a circular trail of one and a half miles, starting from the visitor centre. Allow 1-2 hours to complete.
- It is signposted in green and drawn in green in the trail guide.
- The first section takes a rough path, one metre wide up the fellside through recently planted woodland.
- This section is very steep, starting at an altitude of 675 feet (225m) at the visitor centre and summiting at 900 feet (306m), over a distance of 600 feet/ (200m).
- The second section replicates a part of the Stagsike trail, crossing the same three bridges.
- There is a stone seat at the apex of the trail as well as seating in the visitor centre.
Bruthwaite Viewpoint

- This is a linear trail of three miles return, starting from the reserve carpark. Allow 2-3 hours.
- It is signposted in blue and drawn in the trail guide in blue.
- It follows a steep path for almost a mile up the fellside through recently planted woodland onto moorland.

The path starts at an altitude of 721 feet (220m) at Howgill cottages and summits at 1476 feet (450m), over a distance of 1312 ft/ (400m).

- The path is approx 6.5 feet (2 m) wide. It passes through a nine foot (2.7m) wide gate. There is also a kissing gate next to a cattle grid at the carpark. There are no bridges or seats en route.
Gairs Viewpoint

- This is a linear path of five miles return, starting from the reserve carpark. Allow 3 hours to complete.
- It is signposted in orange and drawn in the trail guide in orange.
- It is a rough, undulating track, 6.5 feet (2 m) wide, through moorland and newly planted woodland. In some parts the trail can be soft and muddy underfoot.
- The viewpoint on the trail is reached at an altitude of 859 feet (262 metres).

- The trail is accessed through a kissing gate next to a cattle grid at the reserve carpark.
- The first part of the trail duplicates part of the Stagsike trail, taking an undulating stone track, eight feet (205m) wide.
- Two ten foot (3m) gates need to be opened to reach the start of the trail.
- A second kissing gate is then reached with five steps leading up to it. Each step up is 8 inches (300mm).
- There are no bridges, stiles or seats.
Forest Head Quarry Trail

- This is a circular trail of two miles, starting from the reserve carpark. Allow 1-2 hours to complete.
- It is signposted in purple and drawn in purple in the trail guide.
- The first section takes the old railway line, seven feet (2m) wide, past a limekiln with a drop of 5 feet (1.5m) between the path and the limekiln. It passes through a gate 12 foot (3.6m) wide into a disused quarry and scheduled ancient monument with interpretation.
- The second section is a wet grassy path, underlaid with matting. There are two short steep sections; 30 feet (9m) long with a 1:3 gradient. The path then leads over the old quarry with a drop of 15 feet (4.5m) to the side of the path. This leads through a 5 foot (1.5m) gate into planted woodland.
- The third section replicates a part of the Gairs trail, taking a rough track down an old railway cutting to a kissing gate with five steps leading from it. Each step down is 8 inches (300mm).
- The last section joins the Stagsike trail and follows a wide, stony track back to the carpark, through a kissing gate next to a cattle grid.
- There are no stiles, bridges or seats.
Viewing Facilities

- A screen at the tarn is accessed over pasture which is level but soft in wet weather with no ramp and no steps.

- Once over the pasture, access is through a 5 foot (1.5 metre) wide gate and over a firm surface, which is level but uneven.

- A double handrail, 67 inches (1700mm) apart leads to the screen.

- The screen has a roof but no sides. It has a fixed bench, open viewing slots 3.93 feet (1.2m) high and one low slot 3.2 feet (1m) high with space for a wheelchair.

- There are information cards with pictures and small print.
Public Toilets

- There is one outside toilet, 99 feet (33 metres) from the blue badge carpark. The approach is paved with two right angle bends and a 1:10 gradient at its steepest point, with a handrail and without steps.

- It has a door width of 39 inches (990mm). There is a clear space to the right of the WC of 58 inches (1.4 metres) and a distance of 19 inches (480mm) from the floor to the WC seat. There is a horizontal and vertical grab rail to the right side to the WC. It is not fitted with an emergency alert or call system. The WC is lit with a fluorescent light and the floor surface is lino. The sink is fitted with a lever tap.

- There are no baby changing facilities.

- Visitors can also access an indoor WC by asking a member of staff (please ring the door bell inside the visitor centre).
### Picnic Area

- There is one picnic area in the visitor centre garden, between the blue badge carpark and outside WC.
- There are two tables with fixed benches.
- There is space for wheelchairs but not at the benches.
- No refreshments are for sale but visitors are welcome to bring their own food and drink.

### Plans to Improve

- The approach to the tarn screen over the pasture will be improved, providing a firmer surface.
- A blue badge parking space will be provided closer to the tarn screen.

### Contact Information

RSPB Geltsdale, Stagsike Cottages, Nr Hallbankgate, Brampton. CA8 2PW.

Tel: 01697 746717

E-mail: geltsdale@rspb.org.uk

Grid reference: NY588584