



Access Statement for RSPB Old Moor

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.

Introduction

Set in the heart of Yorkshire's Dearne Valley is a fantastic chain of nature reserves following the course of the River.

RSPB Old Moor is at the centre of this - a 250 acre wetland nature reserve with a range of habitats.

The site has been designed to provide a year round wildlife spectacle that is easily observed. It is a great place to unwind, take a simple stroll and enjoy close contact with nature.

The visitor centre has a shop and cafe; there is an education centre and for hire meeting room facilities.

The Visitor Centre and reserve is open every day of the year apart from Christmas Day and Boxing Day. The centre opens at 9.30am and closes at 5pm February to October and 4pm November to January. In addition, the reserve stays open until 8pm from April to September although there are no other facilities available at this time.

This Access statement deals only with RSPB Old Moor Nature Reserve. There is only limited public access and visitor facilities at the other nature reserves in the Valley.

We look forward to welcoming you. If you have any queries or require any assistance please phone 01226 751593 or email old.moor@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 S73 0YF to get directions.
- The nearest railway stations are Wombwell (if coming from Sheffield) and Swinton (if you are coming from Doncaster). Wombwell Station is 3 miles away and Swinton is 4 miles from the Reserve.
- Taxis are not readily available at either station. If you require an accessible taxi you can book this in advance, see Contact Information at the end of this document for details.
- The number 200 bus connects Old Moor to both Railway Stations between 06.30 and 19.00.
- The nearest bus stop is located by the entrance gate to the reserve. Ask the driver to stop at Old Moor, Manvers Way.
- We welcome registered assistance dogs (evidence of registration may be requested).

Car Parking Facilities and Arrival

- There is ample parking on site for about 250 cars including six dedicated spaces for blue badge holders.
- There is a short walk from the car park to the visitor centre although we do have a drop off point closer to the centre if you need it. Please note that visitors have to cross the main access drive in order to get to the Centre via a zebra crossing
- If you have pre-booked a scooter (or there is one available), these can be used to collect people from the car park.
- The car park is hard standing and the path to the Visitor Centre is either paved or hard standing.

Visitor Centre

- The Visitor Centre is located on the ground floor with step free, level entry.
- Friendly staff are always on hand to help and provide up to date information on where to go and what to see. They are happy to give assistance, including with any literature.
- Entrance to the reserve is free for RSPB members. For non members, the charges are as follows - Adult £5, Family £11, children £2.50, concessions £2.50.
- There are three robust mobility scooters available to hire from the Visitor Centre at a cost of £3. Please ring in advance if you would like to reserve one.
- There is a full events programme throughout the year and a range of family friendly activities available such as pond dipping and Wildlife Explorer Backpacks. Binoculars are also available for hire. Please ask staff for details - including accessibility.

Nature Trails

- Old Moor has two linear trails and a short circular trail close to the Visitor Centre.
- All of the trails are signposted.
- Green Lane trail is about 700 metres long and takes about 15 minutes to complete on foot.
- The reedbed trail is about 500 metres long and takes about 10 minutes to complete on foot.
- A map of the trails is available from the Visitor Centre or can be downloaded in advance from the website.
- All the paths are flat and have hard surfaces, although there are some inclines with refuge points. The trail to the Bittern Hide does have a steep gradient with refuge points and hand rail however wheel chair users may find this route particularly demanding. The Bittern Hide trail is suitable for mobility scooters and pushchairs.
- Some areas of the discovery zone trail may become demanding for wheel chair users during wet seasons due to the nature of the trails. The discovery zone trail forms a small loop

at the start of the reedbed trail and so does not prevent essential access to the reserve but may limit a wheel chair users discovery.

- There is enough space along the trails for 2 wheelchairs to pass.
- Green Lane has five hides and the Reedbed Trail has two hides and a viewing screen.
- Seating and refuge points are available at intervals of approximately every 100m on the trails. Most of the seating is wooden or recycled plastic benches, with and without backs.

Viewing Facilities

- Old Moor is blessed with ten hides or viewing screens - all of them adapted for wheelchairs.
- For further details – including locations, please refer to the trail guide.
- All of the hides have wheelchair bays with lowered viewing slats.
- There is level entry to all of the hides and they have standard doors.
- All of the hides have bench seating and wooden hide slats – with the exception of the family hide which has floor to ceiling windows and stand-a-lone seats.
- The bird garden hide has a dedicated photography area at one end with height adjustable stools.

Public Toilets

- There are toilets located on the ground floor of the Visitor Centre, in the Farmhouse Meeting Rooms and upstairs in the Cafe.
- There are two accessible toilets located on the ground floor of the Visitor Centre and one in the Farmhouse Meeting Rooms.
- All of these toilets are well lit, have easy access and vertical and horizontal rails.
- One of the Visitor Centre accessible toilets has changing facilities (table and hoist) and the other has baby changing facilities.

Catering

- The Cafe is located on the first floor.
- There is seating for up to 90 people, including on the balcony which gives panoramic views of the reserve with an additional 40 seats in the courtyard area.
- The cafe can be accessed via a lift from the ground floor in the Visitor Centre.
- There is also a flight of stairs with handrails.
- Tables and chairs are well spaced apart and the chairs have no arms.
- There are toilets in the cafe, but no accessible toilets in this location.
- Where possible, all our food produce is locally sourced. Smaller portions are available and we do our best to cater for any dietary requirements; please contact us in advance to check any specific requests you may have.
- The cafe is partly self service but staff are always available to help, including with menus and the specials board.

Shop

- The shop is located in the visitor centre, accessed directly from the main entrance.
- Specialist optical equipment, books and DVDs are available along with a comprehensive bird care and wildlife gardening range.
- In addition, a wide selection of gifts, souvenirs and greetings cards are available.
- Our products are ethically sourced where possible - and our bird food is sourced to reduce the carbon footprint through miles travelled.
- There is step free, level access throughout and ample room within the shop for a large wheelchair/pushchair to manoeuvre and turn.

- There are some tall book/gift racks and low display units accessible from a seated position.
- Our staff are always happy to provide assistance.

Activity Zone

- The Activity Zone is located in the courtyard to the left of the Visitor Centre.
- It is accessible, as are the education facilities - including raised ponds for pond dipping.
- The visitor centre toilet facilities are next door - including the changing table and hoist.
- The classroom is interactive with Smart Board technology.
- Old Moor is the ideal place to bring your class for an unforgettable first-hand experience of nature, and is a great place to help them understand the value of wildlife and natural places.
- Visits are limited to a maximum of two classes (or 60 students).
- Our teaching has been externally verified to ensure that we are providing high quality learning experiences and managing safety effectively via the Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge scheme.
- Please contact us to find out more about details and prices. Either call 0191 2334315 or email nora.casey@rspb.org.uk

Picnic Area

- The courtyard at Old Moor has 10 tables with 40 chairs, each with wheelchair access. It is a great place to sit and have a picnic lunch or enjoy a cup of tea and cake from the cafe - sat in the shade of the parasol awning.
- Out on the reserve, there are several other picnic spots close to the Playground and wildlife ponds. Of these, five more are wheelchair accessible tables.

Additional Information

- The restored Farmhouse has 2 meeting rooms available for hire. They are well used by businesses and local community groups.
- They can be set out in boardroom or theatre style and can accommodate 12-30 people depending on the room.
- However, only the downstairs 'Lapwing' room is accessible to wheelchairs as there is no lift in the building.
- There is an accessible disabled toilet on the ground floor.
- For more details please contact Craig Hartley on 01226 273788 or email craig.hartley@rspb.org.uk

Contact Information

Address: RSPB Dearne Valley, Old Moor Lane,
Wombwell, Barnsley S73 0YF

Telephone: 01226 751593

Email: old.moor@rspb.org.uk

Website: www.rspb.org.uk/oldmoor

Grid Reference: SE422022

Hours Of Operation: Daily (except Christmas and Boxing Day)
from 9.30am. Centre closes 5pm Feb-Oct
and 4pm Nov-Jan. Reserve stays open until
8pm April-Sep.

Local Accessible Taxi: Barnsley
Dodworth Direct Taxi - 01226 200110

Rotherham
A1 Association Taxis – Pete, 07742 483648