

Hanson-RSPB Wetland Project

Finding your way around

There are two reserve trails, connecting to a network of existing paths for lots of walking options. Barleycroft trail winds through the quarry landscape of lakes, lagoons and hedgerows. The Reedbed trail is the way to go to see the heart of the reedbed being restored. We'll add new trails as the reserve develops.

Barleycroft trail

Mostly flat and level, gravel or grassy paths but some gentle slopes and there may be soft ground in wet weather. Allow a long morning or afternoon. 5 miles.

On your way to Barleycroft Lake, pause by the gaps in the hedgerows to glimpse the swans, ducks and grebes on the settlement lagoons, especially in winter. Watch out for the striking male smew, a handsome white visitor in winter.

In spring and summer, look for bullfinches around the densest scrub, or listen for a turtle dove gently "purring" from the undergrowth or a bough.

Reedbed trail

Simple viewpoints at either end. More challenging, includes steps, slopes and some rough ground. Allow a long morning or afternoon. 6 miles.

Look for elegant great crested grebes on many of the pools, and reed buntings around the edges. In spring, head past the Lock to the spectacular reedbeds for your best chance of finding bitterns. Watch for herons stalking the shallows or a skylark soaring skywards. You might hear the "pinging" calls of bearded tits from the trailside canal.

Otters and water voles are present in the reedbeds but are rarely seen.



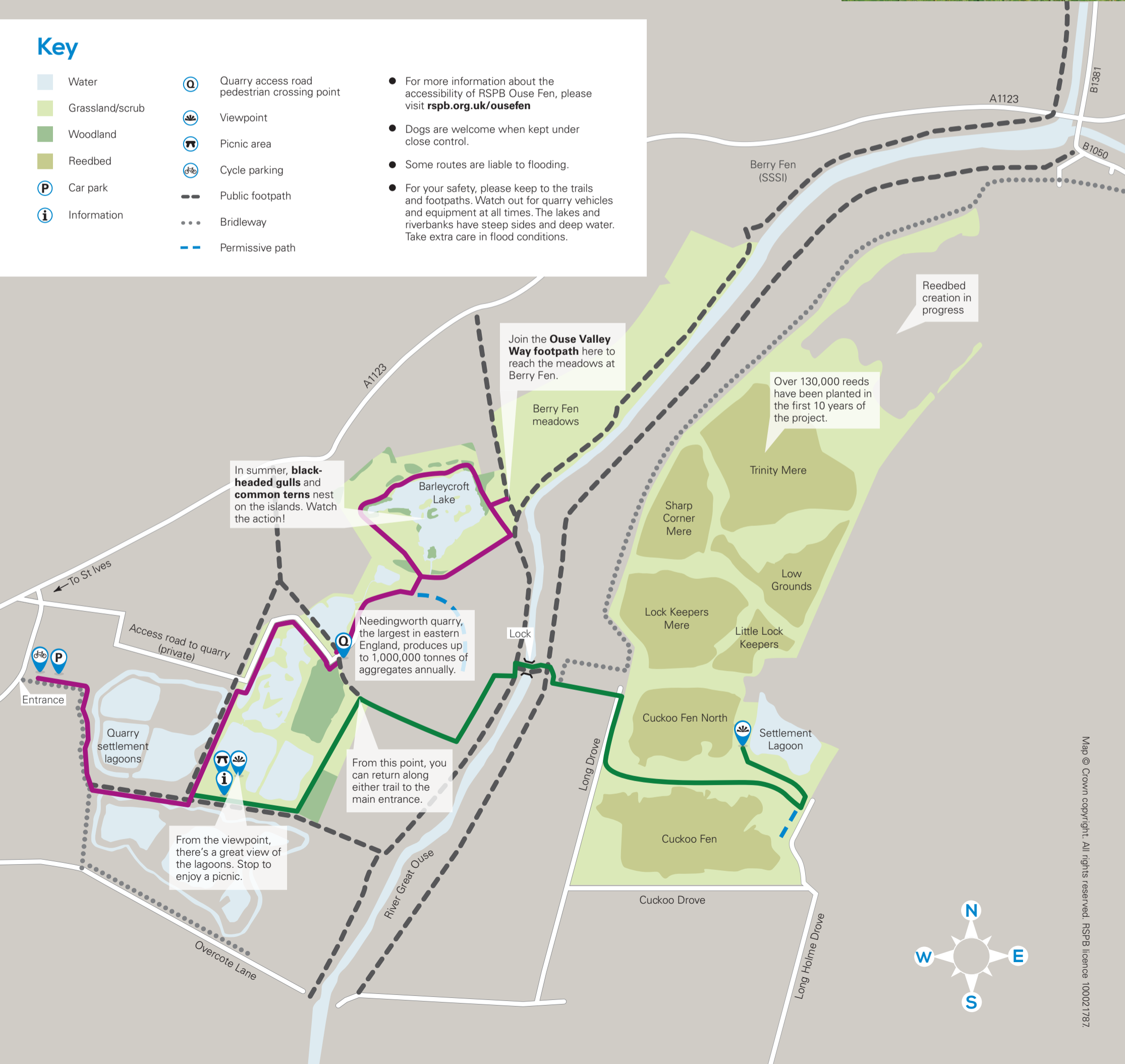
Look for bearded tits amongst the reeds.

Hares are found in the grasslands around the reedbeds.

Edwin Kats (rspb-images.com)
David Tipling (rspb-images.com)

Key

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| | Water | | Quarry access road pedestrian crossing point | | For more information about the accessibility of RSPB Ouse Fen, please visit rspb.org.uk/ousefen |
| | Grassland/scrub | | Viewpoint | | Dogs are welcome when kept under close control. |
| | Woodland | | Picnic area | | Some routes are liable to flooding. |
| | Reedbed | | Cycle parking | | For your safety, please keep to the trails and footpaths. Watch out for quarry vehicles and equipment at all times. The lakes and riverbanks have steep sides and deep water. Take extra care in flood conditions. |
| | Car park | | Public footpath | | |
| | Information | | Bridleway | | |
| | | | Permissive path | | |



In summer, **black-headed gulls** and **common terns** nest on the islands. Watch the action!

Needingworth quarry, the largest in eastern England, produces up to 1,000,000 tonnes of aggregates annually.

From this point, you can return along either trail to the main entrance.

From the viewpoint, there's a great view of the lagoons. Stop to enjoy a picnic.

Join the **Ouse Valley Way** footpath here to reach the meadows at Berry Fen.

Over 130,000 reeds have been planted in the first 10 years of the project.

Reedbed creation in progress