



Accessibility Guide for RSPB Otmoor

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<https://www.rspb.org.uk/reserves-and-events/reserves-a-z/otmoor/>

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Lapwing in flight, Peter Barker

Welcome

RSPB Otmoor nature reserve is nestled close to Oxford, where tranquility and wildlife reign. Watch lapwings perform their tumbling aerial displays from the visitor trail in spring. Explore the trail further towards the reedbed and you may hear the bittern booming. Listen to the whistling winter wigeon as they graze the fields, and wait for sunsets that fill the Otmoor skies. In summer, wander through the brightly coloured meadows. Look for dragonflies and damselflies whizzing over water in hunt for a mate. Arrive early in the morning to hear the chorus of birds singing, and be in with the chance of seeing an otter swimming gracefully along the waterways.

At a Glance

Level Access

- The hide entrance has level access.

Getting here

RSPB Otmoor
Otmoor Lane
Beckley, Oxford
OX3 9TD

Parking

- We have a car park. The parking is less than 50 metres from the main entrance. Parking is not free.

- There is a drop-off point at the main entrance. The drop-off point has a dropped kerb.
- From the car park to the entrance, there is level access. The route is 1300mm wide, or more.
- There is a £2 per car charge for reserve entry for non-members and entry is free for RSPB members.

The car park is located at the main gateway into the nature reserve.

There is car parking for 30 cars and there are no reserved or blue badge car parking spaces.

The car park has three bicycle racks.

There is no lighting in the car park and the surface of the car park is compacted stone which may be uneven.



Car park, showing surface of compacted stone.



Modular information board in the car park, showing recent sightings and site map.



Three bicycle racks.

Arrival

Path to main entrance

- From the street to the main entrance, there is level access.
- The path is 1300mm wide, or more.

Main entrance

- The main entrance has level access.

- Otmoor has no visitor centre or reception. Entrance is through the kissing gate accessed from the car park. The kissing gate has a clearance of 130 cm and leads onto a wide track ~2m wide which is made of compacted stone.



Main entrance to the reserve showing compacted stone path.



Kissing gate at main entrance with 130 cm clearance.



Compacted stone trail after the kissing gate.

Getting around inside

Getting around outside

 *Designated Walking Trail*

Visitor Trail

- The trail is 4880metres long. The trail is sloped. The trail has seats. There are bird hides along the trail.
- After entering the reserve through the kissing gate there is a compacted stone path measuring ~2m in width. 330m from the car park is a bench with no back or arm support, overlooking an area of bird feeders. The path then goes up a slope to join the bridleway, this path is ~100cm wide but may narrow to 80cm in places. The bridleway has a compacted stone path, however this does become muddy when wet. There is a second bench 550m from the first, this bench has back support.

1.1km from the car park is the Wetlands Watch hide. This can be accessed on the left of the bridleway.

To the right of the bridleway, through a kissing gate with a clearance of 130 cm, there is a compacted stone trail leading to the viewing screens. The path is ~90cm wide but narrows to 60cm in place. Just after the kissing gate is a bench with no back support or arm rests. This bench is 1.18km from the car park.

The first screen has two means of access: firstly, a ramp with no handrail and secondly, 4 steps with handrails. The screen is not fully covered overhead, and has benches with no back or arm support. The first viewing screen is 1.6km from the car park and 490m from the previous bench.

470m from the first viewing screen is a bench with no back support or arm rests.

400m further on from this bench is the second viewing screen. The second screen can be accessed from a ramp, this ramp has no hand rail. As with the first viewing screen, it is not fully covered overhead and has benches inside with no back support or arm rests. This screen is 2.4km from the car park.

Going to the second screen and back is a total distance of

4.88km



Ramp into the Wetland Watch hide.



Moveable chairs in the Wetland Watch hide.



Kissing gate on the path to viewing screens with clearance of 130 cm.



Compact stone path to viewing screens, ~90 cm wide narrowing to 60 cm in places.



Ramp (no handrail) to the first viewing screen.



Bench with no back support or arm rests in the first viewing screen.



Entrance to the first viewing screen.



Bench with no back support or arm rests between viewing screens.



Ramp (no handrail) to the second viewing screen.



Partially covered second viewing screen.

Designated Walking Trail

July's Meadow

- The trail is 155metres long. Some of the trail has a loose surface. There are a series of kissing gates along this trail: the first has 130cm clearance, the second has 120 cm clearance, the third has 95 cm clearance, the fourth has 120 cm clearance. The field this track goes across does contain cattle seasonally. There are bird hides along the trail.
- Continuing past the Wetland Watch hide is a kissing gate with a clearance of 130cm.

This leads to a track ~2m wide and made of compact stone which goes to July's Meadow. The field this track goes across does contain cattle seasonally. There is a kissing gate at the end of this track which has a width of 120cm. The track past this gate is not surfaced and gets muddy when wet. Turning left here brings you to the kissing gate

leading into the lower end of July's Meadow. Turning right joins the footpath which goes around July's Meadow to a second kissing gate at the other side of the field.

The first kissing gate leading into the lower end of the meadow has a clearance of 95cm. The path through the meadow is narrow and uneven with no surface and so becomes muddy when wet. The kissing gate at the far end of the meadow path has a clearance of 120cm.



Kissing gate at the beginning of the trail.



Kissing gate at the end of the trail before turning either left or right around July's Meadow.

Designated Walking Trail

Seasonal Trail

- The trail is 180metres long. The trail opens only when ground conditions allow. There are two access points to this trail, via kissing gates. The trail is not surfaced, is uneven and becomes muddy when wet.
- The seasonal trail opens only when ground conditions allow and not during the breeding season. There are two access points to this trail: the first just after the first entrance from the car park, and the second is 190m along the visitor trail.

At both entrances there are kissing gates with a clearance of 70cm.

The trail is not surfaced, it is uneven and becomes muddy when wet. There are two trails available of varying length.



Entrance to the seasonal trail through a kissing gate with 70 cm clearance, by the main entrance to the reserve.



Second entrance to the seasonal trail through a kissing gate with 70 cm clearance.

The Wetlands Watch Hide

- At the hide entrance, there is level access. There is a permanent ramp. The door is 1100.00mm wide.
- There are low windows in the hide, so wheelchair users can see outside.

First Viewing Screen

- At the hide entrance, there is level access. There is a permanent ramp.

Second Viewing Screen

- At the hide entrance, there is level access. There is a permanent ramp.

Customer care support

Guide last updated: 27 February 2024