



# ENGLAND

## **Accessibility Guide for RSPB Blacktoft Sands.**

Blacktoft.sands@rspb.org.uk, 01405 704665,  
<https://www.rspb.org.uk/reserves-and-events/reserves-a-z/blacktoft-sands/>

**Contact for accessibility enquiries: Darren Johnson**



## Welcome

You'll find Blacktoft Sands nestled on the south bank of the River Ouse, where the waterway widens to become the Humber Estuary. This magical reserve hosts a diverse population of waders, warblers and raptors, which can be easily spotted!

Reedbed covers much of the site and this is England's largest intertidal reedbed, home to marsh harriers, bearded tits and bittern. Six shallow saline lagoons provide a wildlife spectacle throughout the year. An area of grazing marsh provides a home for wildfowl and waders through the autumn and spring and includes a large seasonally flooded area. Scrub between the hides attracts a great variety of warblers and a thriving colony of tree sparrows.

## At a Glance

### Level Access

- There is level access from the main entrance to:
  - Reception Hide
  - Visitor amenities with dedicated access toilet.
  - First Hide
  - Townend Hide
  - Singleton Hide
  - Reedling Hide
  - Marshland Hide
  - Ousefleet Hide
- There is level access from the car park to:
  - Picnic Area
- The hide entrance has level access.

### Hearing

- We have a hearing loop in Hearing loop is available in our Reception Hide upon request..
- Some staff have disability awareness training.

### Visual

- Some parts of the venue have low lighting.
- We have display information in large print.
- We have information in large print.

## **General**

- We have a complimentary ticket policy for personal assistants.
- There is at least 1 public toilet for disabled visitors.
- Some staff have disability awareness training.

## **Getting here**

RSPB Blacktoft Sands

Goole

DN14 8HR

## *Travel by public transport*

- You can get to RSPB Blacktoft Sands. by bus.
- The reserve is easily accessed by bus which stops at the entrance to the reserve. Please check the <https://www.eastyorkshirebuses.co.uk/services/EY/361> Scunthorpe to Goole service for further details and timetable. Scunthorpe and Goole have a railway station. Scunthorpe train station is a 10 minute walk to the central bus station. The bus stop is 0.0 miles / 0.0 km from RSPB Blacktoft Sands..
- The bus stops at the entrance to the reserve.

## *Travel by taxi*

- Access visitors are able to use a drop off point directly outside our Reception Hide.

## *Parking*

- We have a car park. There are accessible parking spaces. Parking is free.
- There is a drop-off point at the main entrance. The drop-off point does not have a dropped kerb.
- From the car park to the entrance, there is level access. The path is sloped.
- The route is 1800mm wide, or more.
- Our Access Parking is through the main carpark and opposite our picnic area which has access facilities. This reduces the distance to our reception centre to 100m and is adjacent to our toilet block with access toilet facilities. Access visitors are able to use a drop off point directly outside our Reception Hide.



Main entrance to the reserve. The bus service stops here.



Continue through main car park to arrive at access parking which is adjacent to access toilets.

## Arrival

### *Path to main entrance*

- From the street to the main entrance, there is level access.
- The path is 1800mm wide, or more.

### *Main entrance*

- The main entrance has level access.
- The door is 1860mm wide.
- The main door is side hung and manual.
- Our cozy reception hide is located 200m from the main carpark. It is a "wooden hut" construction with french style doors which can be opened leaving 1.8m of access, allowing the largest of mobility aids to fully access, taking advantage of our superb log burner on colder or wetter days. Access to the viewing windows is up a small low gradient even ramp with ample room turn or space to rest, relax and take in the fabulous wildlife across the marsh.



There is a slight slope up to the door of the Reception Hide

## **Getting around inside**

### *Visual Impairment - General Information*

- Some parts of the venue have low lighting.

### *Ticket/ information desk*

### *Reception Hide*

- From the main entrance to the desk, there is level access. The route is 1800mm wide, or more.
- The door is 1800mm wide, or more.
- The Reception Information Point is situated inside the reception hide - It is an open informal space to greet visitors. Once inside the hide visitors are able to access the continuously lowered viewing area and cozy log burner on colder wetter days. The view across 2 lagoons provides close up views of waders in spring and autumn as well as a plethora of wild fowl, and even watervoles.





Greeting point area inside reception hide with spacious meeting point and access to upper viewing area.



Gentle wooden ramp leading to spacious viewing area with access to wood burner.





Spacious adaptable viewing area with continuous lowered viewing windows next to warming wood burner.



Free to use wheelchairs for those less mobile.

### *Things to See and Do*

- We have a complimentary ticket policy for personal assistants.
- We have display information in: large print.

### *Public toilet*

### *Visitor amenities with dedicated access toilet.*

- There is a public toilet for disabled visitors.

- From the main entrance to the public toilet, there is level access. The route is 2000mm wide, or more.
- The toilet door is 980mm wide.
- The direction of transfer onto the toilet is to the left.
- There is 2000mm at the side of the toilet. There is 2000mm in front of the toilet. The toilet seat is 430mm high. The toilets have handrails.
- Our dedicated access toilets are situated in our public amenities block close to our disabled parking and picnic area. It comprises a spacious area in front of and to the right of the toilet with a fixed hand rail to one side and a hinged hand rail on the other. Both hand rails have vertical and horizontal elements. Wash facilities are provided and well defined against a high contrast colour decorating the walls. Baby changing and ostomy changing facilities are also provided with specific waste disposal. We do not have electricity onsite and a cold water only supply.



View through entrance to access spacious toileting and changing area



Washing facilities area, basin with lever handle taps



Toilet area showing hand rails both sides



Baby and ostomy changing area.

## *First Hide*

- From the main entrance to this area, there is level access. The route is 1200mm wide, or more.
- The door is 930mm wide.
- Head right 90m along our Main Trail and explore nature from First Hide. The approach is up a gentle sloped compacted limestone path. Enter through the side hinged door with lever handle into a two storey viewing area. The lower floor allows access visitors direct entry to a lowered viewing screen and removable chairs giving plenty of opportunity for mobility seated people to take in the wildly serene lagoon and reed bed beyond. Further into the hide fixed bench style seating is provided. Upper floors are accessed by steps which are not suitable for seated mobility visitors. The stairway has a hand rail.



Approach to First Hide up gently sloping compacted limestone path to hinged door.



Widened lobby leads directly to a lowered access viewing area.



2nd floor via stairs suitable for some visitors. Not suitable for seated access visitors.

### *Townend Hide*

- From the main entrance to this area, there is level access. The route is 1200mm wide, or more.
- The door is 930mm wide.
- Head right 200m along our Main Trail and explore nature from Townend Hide. The approach is up a moderately sloped compacted limestone path. Enter through the side hinged door with lever handle into a single storey viewing



area. The widened lobby allows access visitors direct entry to a lowered viewing screen and removable chairs giving plenty of opportunity for mobility seated people to take in the wildy serene lagoon, wildlife and reed bed beyond. Further into the hide fixed bench style seating is provided.



Townend hide approach up a gently sloping compacted limestone path to hinged door.



Access viewing point is close to entry with room for two seated mobility visitors.



## *Singleton Hide*

- From the main entrance to this area, there is level access. The route is 1200mm wide, or more.
- The door is 930mm wide.
- Head right 400m along our Main Trail and explore nature from Singleton Hide. The approach is up a gentle sloped compacted limestone path. Enter through the side hinged door with lever handle into a single storey viewing area. This allows access visitors direct entry to a lowered viewing screen and removable chairs giving plenty of opportunity for mobility seated people to take in the wildly serene lagoon and reed bed beyond. Further into the hide fixed bench style seating is provided.



The approach is up a gently sloping compacted limestone path. Enter through hinged door.



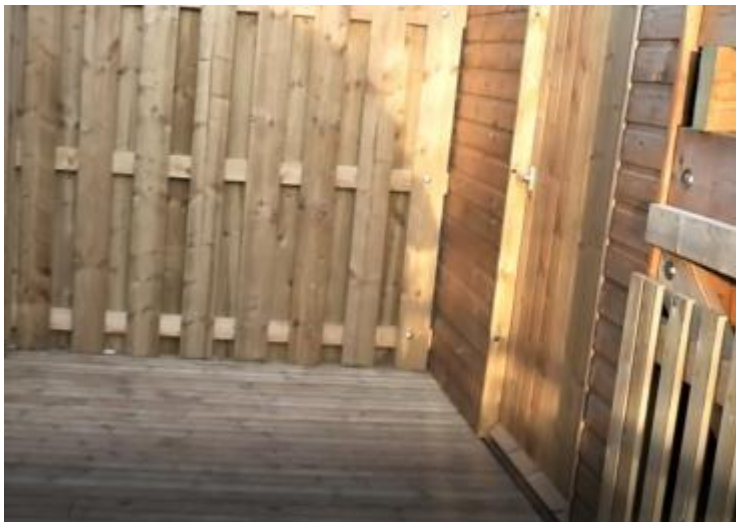
Access visitor viewing point is close to entry with room for two seated mobility visitors.

### *Reedling Hide*

- From the main entrance to this area, there is level access. The route is 1200mm wide, or more.
- The door is 930mm wide.
- Head left 140m along our Main Trail and explore nature from Reedling Hide. The approach is up a gentle sloped compacted limestone path. Enter onto the access platform and head to the right with widened area for seated mobility visitors. The lower floor allows access visitors direct entry to a lowered viewing screen and removable chairs giving plenty of opportunity for mobility seated people to take in the wildly serene lagoon and reed bed beyond. Further into the hide fixed bench style seating is provided. Upper floor is accessed by steps which are not suitable for seated mobility visitors. The stairway has a hand rail.



Reedling Hide approach up gently sloping compacted limestone pathway onto level boarded access platform.



Enter through doorways to the left or right of the access platform. Lots of turning spaces for seated access visitors.



Lowered seated access viewing area with removable chairs for seated mobility visitors.

### *Marshland Hide*

- From the main entrance to this area, there is level access. The route is 1200mm wide, or more.
- The door is 930mm wide.
- Head right 250m along our Main Trail and explore nature from Marshland Hide. The approach is up a gentle sloped compacted limestone path and level wooden bridge with hand rails at either side. Enter through the side hinged door with lever handle into a single storey viewing area. The lower floor allows access visitors direct entry to a lowered viewing screen and removable chairs giving plenty of opportunity for mobility seated people to take in the wildly serene lagoon and reed bed beyond. Further into the hide movable bench style seating is provided.



Approach along the compacted limestone path and gently sloping wooden bridge with handrails both sides to hinged door.



Access visitor viewing point is close to entry with room for two seated mobility visitors.

### *Ousefleet Hide*

- From the main entrance to this area, there is level access. The route is 800mm wide, or more.
- The door is 930mm wide.

- The trail to Ousefleet Hide is grassy therefore can be seasonally wet and muddy making access to Ousefleet hide somewhat problematic for pushchair and seated mobility visitors. In warmer weather the majority of mobility aids/pushchairs will be able to take the somewhat broken pathway from Ousefleet Trail which narrows to 800mm where trees break the compacted limestone path. The entrance is via a hinged wooden door leading directly to two spaces for access visitors at designated lowered viewing point.

Further into the hide fixed bench style seating provides amazing views over the seasonally flooded lagoon and marsh. During summer the view changes to dry scrubland perfect for summer visitors like grey wagtails.

Adjacent to the hide is a viewing screen accessed down a short wide natural path. The viewing screen has fixed bench style seating boasting panoramas across a permanent lagoon perfect for wildfowl like teal and widgeon.





Approach to Ousefleet hide along slightly broken compacted limestone path seasonally unsuitable for some access visitors.



Access visitor viewing point is close to entry with room for two seated mobility visitors.

## Getting around outside

 *Designated Walking Trail*

### *Main Trail*

- The trail is 650metres long. The trail has a hard surface. The trail is sloped. The trail has seats. There are bird hides along the trail.

- Head 400m right along Main Trail down the level compacted limestone path to encounter superb wildlife experiences from First Hide (90m), Townend Hide (200m) and Singleton Hide (400m). This linear trail is surrounded by coppice, reed bed and scrub which is home to a diverse range of songbirds throughout the year. Resting points along the way allow visitors to stop and listen to a variety of buntings and warblers, even the occasional grasshopper warbler. The short, gently sloping approaches to First and Townend hides are compacted limestone leading directly to the entry. Main Trail terminates at Singleton hide. The approach slopes gently up the compacted limestone pathway with diverse habitat on either side towards the entry. Once inside the hide you'll experience vistas across the reed bed. This is a favoured area for watching gently floating marsh harriers.



Main trail heading right towards First, Townend and Singleton Hides along compacted limestone path.



Main trail's compacted limestone path continues through lush reed bed and coppice.



Wooden bench resting point along main trail east.

 *Designated Walking Trail*

*Main Trail Left*

- The trail is 250metres long. The trail has a hard surface. The trail is sloped. The trail has seats. There are bird hides along the trail.
- Head 250m left along Main Trail down the level compacted limestone path to encounter superb wildlife experiences

from Reedling hide (140m) and Marshland hide (250m). This linear trail is surrounded by coppice, reed bed and scrub which is home to a diverse range of songbirds throughout the year. Resting points along the way allow visitors to stop and listen to a variety of buntings and warblers, even the occasional grasshopper warbler. The short, gently sloping approaches to First and Townend hides are compacted limestone leading directly to the entry. Main Trail terminates at Singleton hide. The approach slopes gently up the compacted limestone pathway with diverse habitat on either side towards the entry. Once inside the hide you'll experience vistas across the lagoon and reed bed beyond. Bearded tits can be seen flitting through the reeds and wintering water fowl feeding.



Head west along Main trail's compacted limestone path to Xerox and Marshland hides through coppice and reed bed.





Wooden sloped approach to Marshland hide with bench style resting point.



Gentle slope to platform with lower deck entrances left and right

 *Designated Walking Trail*

### *Ousefleet Trail*

- The trail is 800metres long. Some of the trail has a loose surface. The majority of the pathway is grass and seasonally not suitable for seated mobility visitors and push chairs. The trail ends with a short broken pathway leading

to the hide and viewing screen. It narrows in places and is somewhat broken and twisty. The trail has seats. There are bird hides along the trail.

- Heading left along main Trail Ousefleet trail breaks away to the left leading to a grassed pathway for 600m leading a viewing point over wetland grazing marsh and the amazing Koniks ponies helping conservation work. At the end of Ousefleet trail and short (approx 30m) of compacted but broken limestone leads through a coppiced area to the hide and a viewing screen. The coppiced pathway can be a little tricky to negotiate as trees grow through the pathway. Ousefleet trail is seasonally unsuitable for some seated mobility and wheel chair users as the trail becomes soft and muddy. Ousefleet lagoon viewing screen is to the right of the main hide. From Ousefleet hide spectacular views over seasonally flooded scrub meadow favoured by wintering wild fowl, passage waders and curlew.



Distance sign to grazing marsh view point, Ousefleet hide and viewing screen.





Main grassed pathway leading to grazing marsh view point, Ousefleet hide and viewing screen.



Entrance to short broken pathway leading to Ousefleet hide and viewing screen.



Compacted limestone pathway approach leading to Ousefleet hide through coppice. Pathway is somewhat uneven but easily passable.

 *Designated Walking Trail*

*Ousefleet viewing screen.*

- The trail is 600metres long. Small trees have occasionally grown through the pathway which can be tricky for larger mobility aids or pushchairs to negotiate. The trail has seats.
- To the right of Ousefleet hide lies the permanent lagoon's viewing screen. The short path of compacted limestone is even and wide enough for most mobility aids however it can be seasonally difficult to reach this area. The bench style seating is fixed. The lagoon is a favourite spot for breeding little grebes and dragonflies alike.



Ousefleet viewing screen adjacent to the hide. The screen has fixed bench style seating.

### *Designated Walking Trail*

#### *Car park to reception trail.*

- The trail is 200metres long. The trail has a hard surface. The trail is sloped. The trail has seats.
- The car park to reception hide trail (200m) is over 2m wide and passes though a coppiced area and past a grassed overspill car park, wildlife pond, picnic area and tree sparrow viewing point. The tree sparrow viewing point is at the apex of a small slope of compacted limestone over the Humber's essential floodbank. From the viewing point vistas across the newly created wild flower meadow, Horseshoe meadow.



Wide compacted limestone pathway leading from car park to toilet block.



Flood bank slope leading to tree sparrow viewing point at it's apex.

### *First Hide*

- At the hide entrance, there is level access. The door is 930.00mm wide.
- There are low windows in the hide, so wheelchair users can see outside.

### *Reedling Hide*

- At the hide entrance, there is level access. The door is 930.00mm wide.
- There are low windows in the hide, so wheelchair users can see outside.

### *Ousefleet Hide*

- At the hide entrance, there is level access. The door is 930.00mm wide.
- There are low windows in the hide, so wheelchair users can see outside.

### *Townend Hide*

- At the hide entrance, there is level access. The door is 930.00mm wide.
- There are low windows in the hide, so wheelchair users can see outside.

### *Marshland Hide*

- At the hide entrance, there is level access. There are low windows in the hide, so wheelchair users can see outside.

### *Singleton Hide*

- At the hide entrance, there is level access. The door is 930.00mm wide.
- There are low windows in the hide, so wheelchair users can see outside.



## *Picnic Area*

### *Picnic Area*

- From the car park to the picnic area, there is level access. The path is 10000mm wide, or more.
- The entrance is 10000mm wide.
- Some tables have space for wheelchair users. You can bring your own food to the picnic area.
- Nestled in a coppiced area directly across from access parking this area allows visitors to sit, relax and enjoy food whilst taking in the amazing song birds that call Blacktoft home. This serene area is grassed. It attracts robins, blackbirds, thrushes and wrens as well as a variety of passing migrants like fieldfare and redwing. It's at its absolute best in spring when breeding tree sparrows take full advantage of the nesting boxes in this area. Please bring your own picnic as refreshments available are limited.



Wide view of picnic area close to access parking and toilet facilities. Access seating and table provided.





Side view of picnic area depicting very wide access to the grassed area. Access seating and table provided.



Long view of the entire picnic area with ample room for everyone. Access seating and table provided.

### *Horseshoe meadow*

- This area can only be viewed from the Tree Sparrow viewing point and has no access.

## **Customer care support**

### *Accessibility equipment*

- We provide wheelchairs. Wheelchairs are free.

- We have a hearing loop in Hearing loop is available in our Reception Hide upon request.
- Assistance dogs are able to assist to use the access facilities on site.

### *Emergency evacuation procedures*

- We have emergency evacuation procedures for disabled visitors.
- There is a battery powered emergency call alarm system within the access toilets. This is not connected to a central alarm system as there is no access to electricity on site.

### *Customer care support*

- Some staff have disability awareness training.
  - We have information in large print.
- 

Guide last updated: 24 October 2023