



Accessibility Guide for RSPB Fen Drayton Lakes

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Welcome

Fen Drayton Lakes is a wetland site that began life as a flooded sand and gravel quarry next to riverside meadows in the floodplain of the river Great Ouse in Cambridgeshire. The site offers flat walks of varying length alongside lake shores, riverbanks, grasslands, hedgerows and plantation woodlands. A huge variety of wildlife is drawn to the area, including otters, dragonflies, ducks, swans and geese. There's something to see (and hear) all year round.

At a Glance

Level Access

- There is level access from the main entrance to:
 - Viewing points
 - Elney Lake drive-in viewing area
 - Lake dipping platform
- There is level access from the car park to:
 - Discovery Zone
 - Lake dipping platform
- The hide entrance has ramped access.

Visual

- We have information in large print.

Getting here

Fen Drayton Lakes
Fen Drayton Road
Cambridge
Cambridgeshire
CB24 4RB

Grid Ref: TL352680

Travel by public transport

- You can get to RSPB Fen Drayton Lakes by bus and train.
- The nearest train station is Huntingdon. The train station is 10.2 miles / 16.4 km from RSPB Fen Drayton Lakes. Cambridge rail station is also close at 15.2 miles / 24.4 km.
- Both train stations are linked to the site by the Cambridgeshire Guided Busway. Fen Drayton Lakes is a request stop – please note that the driver will need to be made aware that you wish to alight. Buses run at 10 minute intervals Monday–Saturday and hourly on Sundays. Journey times are around 40 minutes from either station. The buses are wheelchair accessible. More information can be found at: www.thebusway.info
- The bus stop is within the reserve 0.20 miles / 16.7 km from the carpark.

Parking

- We have a car park. There are accessible parking spaces. The parking is less than 50 metres from the welcome area. Parking is free.

- No formal drop-off point, but cars can pull over along Holywell Ferry Road through the reserve. From the car park to the entrance, there is level access. The route is 1200mm wide, or more.
- Leave A14 at Junction 24; follow signs to Swavesey. Turn left in Boxworth End (signed to Fen Drayton). Turn right onto minor road (signed to Swavesey), then left into entrance to Fen Drayton Lakes. Follow signs to car park.
- Car park has 50 spaces with two Blue Badge spaces. It has a rolled gravel surface and no height restrictions.



Car park

Arrival



- From the public highway, there is level access all the way to the central welcome area and car park.



Welcome area

- The car park and welcome area have level, firm access throughout, although much of the surface has a loose surface.
- The car park and welcome area are in the centre of the reserve with access to all trails. There is no visitor centre, shop, cafe or other indoor space; however, there is a covered welcome shelter with undercover seating and picnic tables immediately adjacent. A sightings board and a large reserve map are also here.
- Maps are available on the Trail Guide leaflet which can be collected from the car park welcome shelter, the bus stop and the Elney Lake 'drive-in' viewing area. A large print version of the Trail Guide is available by contacting the Fens Area Office (see Contact Information). Maps are also displayed on many of the information boards around the reserve.
- Dogs are permitted on all public rights of way if kept under close control. Registered assistance dogs are welcome in all publicly-accessible areas.

Getting around outside

Picnic and viewing area

- There is a picnic area suitable for wheelchairs very close to the central welcome area.
- A level and colour-contrasted road crossing connects the central welcome area to a picnic area and lake-edge platform.
- Tables with space for wheelchairs and mobility vehicles are available here. They are positioned on firm, level ground accessed via a gently sloping, hardened path.

Designated Walking Trail

Holywell Short Trail

- The trail is 1500 metres long. Some of the trail has a loose, uneven surface and sections are muddy during wetter periods.
- Kissing gates will be encountered along this trail. The kissing gates on this route are large, but not fully opening with use of a RADAR key.
- The trail has a backed bench seat near to the start/end of the trail.
- This trail is on a range of surfaces including hard surfaces, rolled gravel and grass. Mostly flat, some gentle slopes. Will get very wet and muddy in the winter.
- Wooden signposts mark the way and distances are provided.



Kissing gate at Holywell Lake

Designated Walking Trail

Ferry Lagoon Trail

- The trail is 4000 metres long. Some of the trail has a loose surface.

- Kissing gates and bridle gates will be encountered along this trail, some of which are not wheelchair accessible.
- The trail has seats.
- Trail is on a range of surfaces including hard surfaces, rolled gravel and grass. Mostly flat but with some uneven ground and some gentle slopes. Trail will get very wet and muddy in the winter.
- Signposts mark the way and distances are provided.
- Benches, viewpoints and information boards are provided at regular intervals along this trail.



Public trail

Designated Walking Trail

Elney Loop Trail

- The trail is 4500 metres long. Some of the trail has a loose surface. Kissing gates will be encountered along this trail. The kissing gates are all wheelchair accessible, i.e., fully opening with use of a RADAR key.
- The trail has seats.
- There is a bird hide and viewpoints along the trail.
- Trail is on a range of surfaces including hard surfaces, rolled gravel and grass. Mostly flat, some gentle slopes. Trail will get very wet and muddy in the winter.
- Wooden signposts mark the way and distances are provided.
- Benches, viewpoints and information boards are provided at regular intervals along this trail.

- This trail includes the Coucher hide



Coucher hide, Moore Lake



Inside the Coucher hide

Coucher Hide

- At the hide entrance, there is level access. There is a permanent ramp with wire mesh providing grip to the surface. The door is 920mm wide.
- Inside the Coucher hide is a space for a wheelchair with a lowered viewing slot and extended leg room. Wooden flaps cover the unglazed viewing slots which can be opened and are held by latches. The wooden flap in the lowered viewing slot also uses friction hinges.

Picnic Area

Discovery Zone

- From the car park to the picnic area, there is level access. Some tables have space for wheelchair users. You can bring your own food to the picnic area.
- A picnic area, with wheelchair accessible benches, is provided near the Discovery Zone which can be found on the southern side of Ferry Lagoon and is marked on the Trail Guide.

- There are also picnic tables available in the car park, bus shelter and Elney Loop Trial.



Viewing Points

- From the main entrance to these areas, there is level access.
- Three viewing shelters, one hide and many open viewing areas are located on and off the reserve trails. Viewing shelters are covered and have seating.



Ferry Lagoon Viewing Shelter

Elney Lake Drive-in Viewing Area

- From the main entrance to this area, there is vehicle access.
- Drive-in viewing area looking out over Elney Lake with a rolled gravel surface. A picnic table is also present.



Customer care support

Accessibility equipment

- All dogs are welcome on the public rights of way and must be kept under close control. Registered assistance dogs are welcome in all publicly accessible areas.
- A portaloo may be available at the reserve car park during the summer. The nearest public toilets are in St Ives.

Emergency evacuation procedures

- Nature reserve with no indoor areas.
- Flood evacuation plan in place in the event of urgent Flood Warnings

Customer care support

- We have information in large print.
- A large print version of the Trail Guide is available by contacting the Fens Area Office (see Contact Information).

Guide last updated: 25 July 2022