



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

West Wolds U3A

For Market Rasen and Surrounding Villages

Archives

2003

Volume 4

Speakers at our Monthly Meetings - 2003

11th September "Where they choose to grow" a beautiful
slide show given by Phil + Gwen
Phillips

Slide show of wild flower areas

SPEAKERS at the September meeting were Gwen and Phil Phillips with a subject entitled Where They Chose To Grow.

This was not just slides of alpine growing, but slides side-by-side also showing the plant in its natural habitat.

Surprisingly, carpets of daffodils were seen growing in boggy ground and, at the other extreme, above the tree line of the

West Wolds U3A

French Alps together with wild tulips.

In the mediterranean area house leeks flourished, being able to withstand the heat and dry conditions.

Most of the plants shown - and there were many - grow quite happily in our gardens, but it was

nice to see them where they chose to grow.

The speakers finished with slides showing our own wild flower areas.

The group's next meeting will be on Thursday October 9 in the Festival Hall starting at 10am, when the speaker will be Linda Crust on Saltmarsh Farm and visitors as always will be welcome.

9th October
"Diaries of Billy Paddison"
- Linda Crust

Geology Group

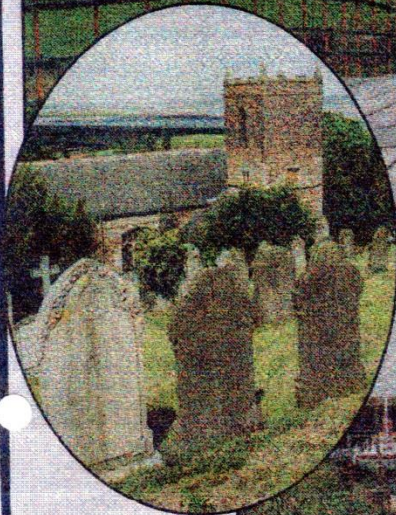


Colin Wood shows members of U3A
Geology Group some of his work as a
Monumental Mason. Nov 03

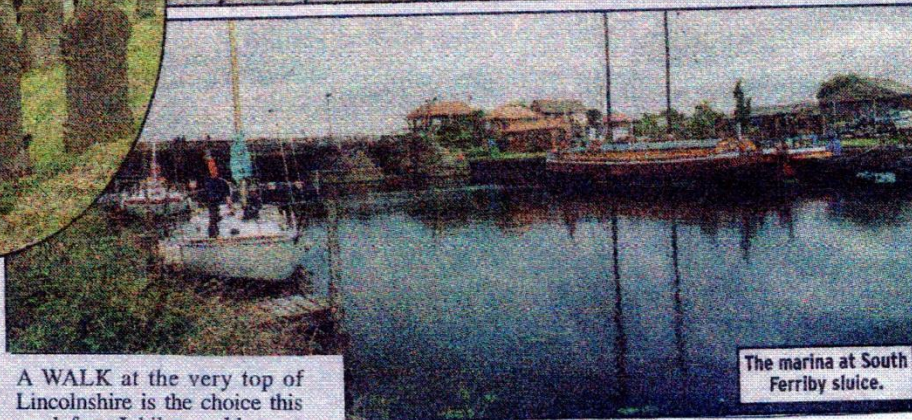
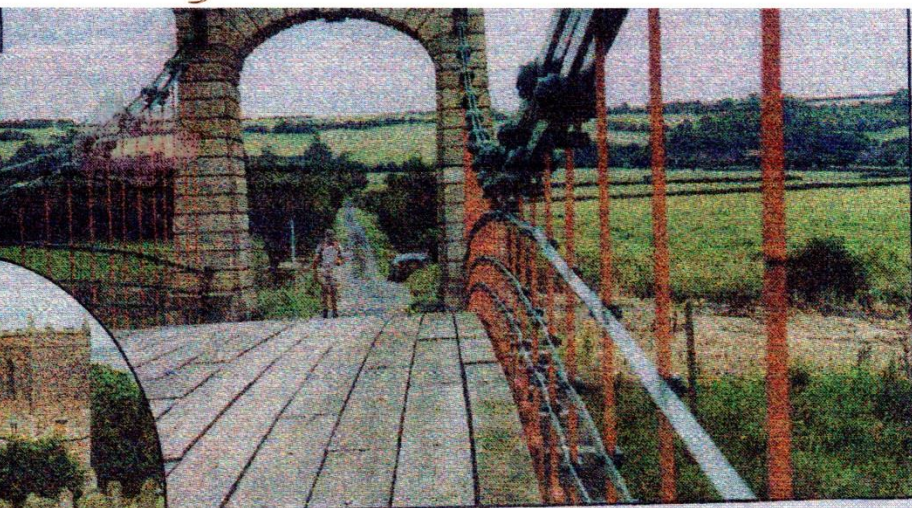


Wednesday, 5th November 2003

suspension bridge at Horkstow.



St Nicholas Church with the Humber and Reads Island in the background.



The marina at South Ferriby sluice.

A WALK at the very top of Lincolnshire is the choice this week for a Jubilee ramble.

Partly on the Viking Way near South Ferriby it gives stupendous views over the Ancholme Valley, Read Island and across the Humber to Yorkshire.

These alone make the journey and the effort of the walk worthwhile. It also visits a unique suspension bridge.

Start from the Countryside Commission car park near Ferriby Sluice (GR977210) almost opposite the Hope and Anchor pub, where there is a map and additional information about the route. Use OS Landranger 112 or Explorer 281.

The distance is about four and half miles (7.5 kms) and you could picnic on the riverbanks or near Horkstow Bridge.

Seen from the Humber bank near the start and later from the Viking Way is Reads island. This began to form around 1820, legend says, from silt collecting round a sunken French schooner. It grew to 75 acres by 1840, rising to 450 acres by 1886.

A solitary farmhouse was built on it and the island was named after its first tenant farmer. Although there was a spring of fresh water, all other supplies, farm animals and people had to cross by ferry. The island is divided between Ferriby and Winterringham parishes and erosion constantly changes its shape.

South Ferriby church is built along the hillside above the village so unusually the alignment is north to south rather than the usual east to west. From the outside St Nicholas's

saint himself. There are fine views from the hilltop here.

Above South Ferriby the path passes Middlegate quarry opened in 1938 and now extending to almost 150 acres. Successive layers of clay, sand and pyrites are quarried, as well as the uppermost layers of chalk. All are used to make Portland cement at the large factory seen far below by the river. The quarry is now so deep that the bottom is now lower than the bed of the nearby Humber.

Horkstow's name means the "sheltered place". During landscaping work in the hall gardens in the 1790s a beautiful eight foot by 18 foot Roman mosaic depicting a chariot race was found which is now in the British museum.

A Roman settlement here should come as no surprise when we remember that Ermine Street from London to York ran to a ferry at Winterringham Haven four miles away.

Horkstow's other claim to fame is the suspension bridge over the New River Ancholme with its massive stone archways. The meandering course of the old river is still shown on modern OS maps but work to create a straight navigable waterway began in 1825.

This took 19 years to compete with Ferriby Sluice, the final link with the Humber, being finished in 1844. The work was planned and executed by the famous civil engineer John Rennie. Horkstow was his only suspension bridge

complete with timber decking and brightly painted red and green ironwork.

Once the new river was complete Ferriby Sluice was the terminal for Humber ferries and for packet boats plying the two-hour inland voyage to Brigg until just before World War One. It is now a marina for pleasure boating.

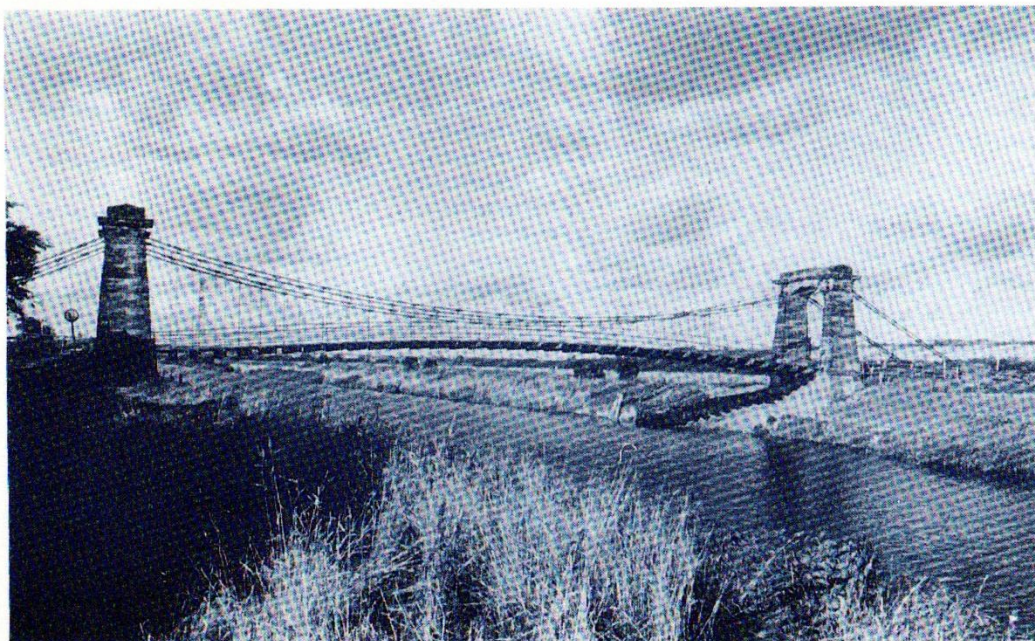
The walk: From the car park entrance cross the road to a signed footpath onto the Humber bank which soon bears right towards South Ferriby village. Ignore a path to the right, continuing just beyond Ferriby Hall (1805) where the path descends to the left to a stile.

It then goes along by the reedbeds for 200 yards to steps and a stile on the right, from which a field edge path climbs to a track. You are now on the Viking Way. Turn right.

On reaching South Ferriby cross the main road and climb the lane opposite. (The church can be reached by walking through the village or by doubling back down a track off the Viking Way just beyond the churchyard).

After Middlegate quarry a green lane leads onwards to another road. Turn right downhill. At the junction bear left, using the footpath on the opposite side, pass Horkstow Hall and then bear right into Bridge Lanes following it to the suspension bridge.

Our route crosses the stile, on the right immediately before the bridge. Follow this riverside path



The Horkstow chain-link suspension bridge over the River Ancholme is one of the engineering gems of Lincolnshire. The overall length is 232 feet and the span of the chains 133ft 9ins. The iron came from Rotherham and the stone from near Barnsley. It was designed by Sir John Rennie, completed in 1836, and is now probably the best remaining example of this type of his work in the country.

5th November 2003

NOTES USED ON THE HORKSTOW TO S FERRIBY WALK

The Village of Horkstow's name means "Sheltered Place"

We visit the parish Church of "St Maurice"

Where there is an interesting leaflet published about it's history.

Horkstow Hall

During landscaping work in the Hall gardens in the 1790's a beautiful 8'x18' Roman Mosaic, depicting a Chariot Race was found, which is now in the British Museum.

A Roman settlement here should come as no surprise when we remember that Ermine Street from London to York ran to a ferry at Winteringham Haven, four miles away.

The walk turns right uphill to a green lane and on to Middlegate Quarry, which opened in 1938 extending to almost 150 acres. Successive layers of clay, sand and pyrites are quarried as well as the uppermost layers of chalk. All are used to make Portland Cement at the large factory seen far below by the river. The quarry is now so deep that the bottom is lower than the bed of the nearby River Humber.

You can see Read's Island from this point, out on the River Humber. It began to form around 1820, legend says that silt collecting around a sunken French schooner formed the Island. It grew to 75 acres by 1840, rising to 450 acres by 1886.

A solitary farmhouse was built on it and the Island was named after its first tenant farmer. Although there was a spring of fresh water on the Island, all other supplies, farm animals and people had to cross by Ferry. The Island is divided between Ferriby and Winteringham parishes and erosion constantly changes its shape.

South Ferriby Church is built along the hillside above the village, so unusual is the alignment of North to South, rather than the usual East to West. From the outside, the Church of St Nicholas seems like 18th Century brick built, but it has some stonework over the door, including a figure said to be the Saint himself.

We pass Ferriby Hall which was built in 1805, now used as a Residential Home. The walk takes us along reedbeds for 200 yards to steps and a stile, and eventually we reach our lunch-stop at the "Hope & Anchor"

After lunch we take the tow-path of the River opposite to the Pub and discover HORKSTOW'S other claim to fame - the suspension bridge over the new River Ancholme, with its massive stone archways.

The meandering course of the old river is still shown on modern O.S. maps, but work to create a straight navigable waterway began in 1825. This took 19 years to complete with Ferriby Sluice, the final link with the Humber, being finished in 1844. The work was planned and executed by the famous civil engineer, John Rennie. Horkstow was his only suspension bridge design and is therefore of historic national importance and is now restored to its original appearance complete with timber decking and brightly painted red and green ironwork.

Once the new river was complete, Ferriby Sluice was the terminal for Humber ferries and for packet boats plying the two hour inland voyage to Brigg, until just before World War One. It is now a Marina for pleasure boating.

Thursday, 13th November 2003
Annual General Meeting followed by an
"INTEREST GROUP'S FAYRE"

New candidates nominated

THERE was a good turnout at the fourth Annual General Meeting with almost 70 members in attendance.

The usual business was conducted, with reports from the chairman, secretary and treasurer.

West Wolds U3A is in a healthy position, with membership growing steadily. Two committee members stood down, but two new candidates were nominated and the 10 committee members were voted en bloc.

As there were no other issues and everybody was happy with the position as it was, the AGM closed.

West Wolds U3A

The second part of the meeting was given over to the interest groups, with each group having a display about themselves.

Groups co-ordinator Jean Childs invited each group convenor to say a little about what they did.

The next meeting will be the Christmas Faith Lunch meeting, with Rodney Cousins doing a quiz, on Thursday December 11 in the Festival Hall from 10am-1pm; don't forget your plate of goodies.





West Wolds U3A 2003 AGM Interest Groups

Autumn Migrants

2003

A bird trip to the R.S.P.B. Reserve at Blacktoft

In response to requests I have been asked to arrange a visit to this well known but remote Reserve on Tuesday, November 18th. This will include a warden-guided tour of some 2 hours, visiting various hides; for this reason numbers are limited. (Twenty is considered the largest number of people who can view from one hide).

The guided tour will cost £1 per head. Admission to the Reserve is £3, or £2 concessionary, but free to R.S.P.B. members, who should bring their membership cards.

A pub lunch at nearby village can probably be arranged for those who want it. I shall need to know now. Otherwise bring a packed lunch.

Anyone who wishes to return to the Reserve in the afternoon is free to do so. Some may prefer to take a short walk in the area, or return home.

Transport will be by private cars; please arrange to share cars with other members. Bring binoculars and good walking SHOES rather than boots.

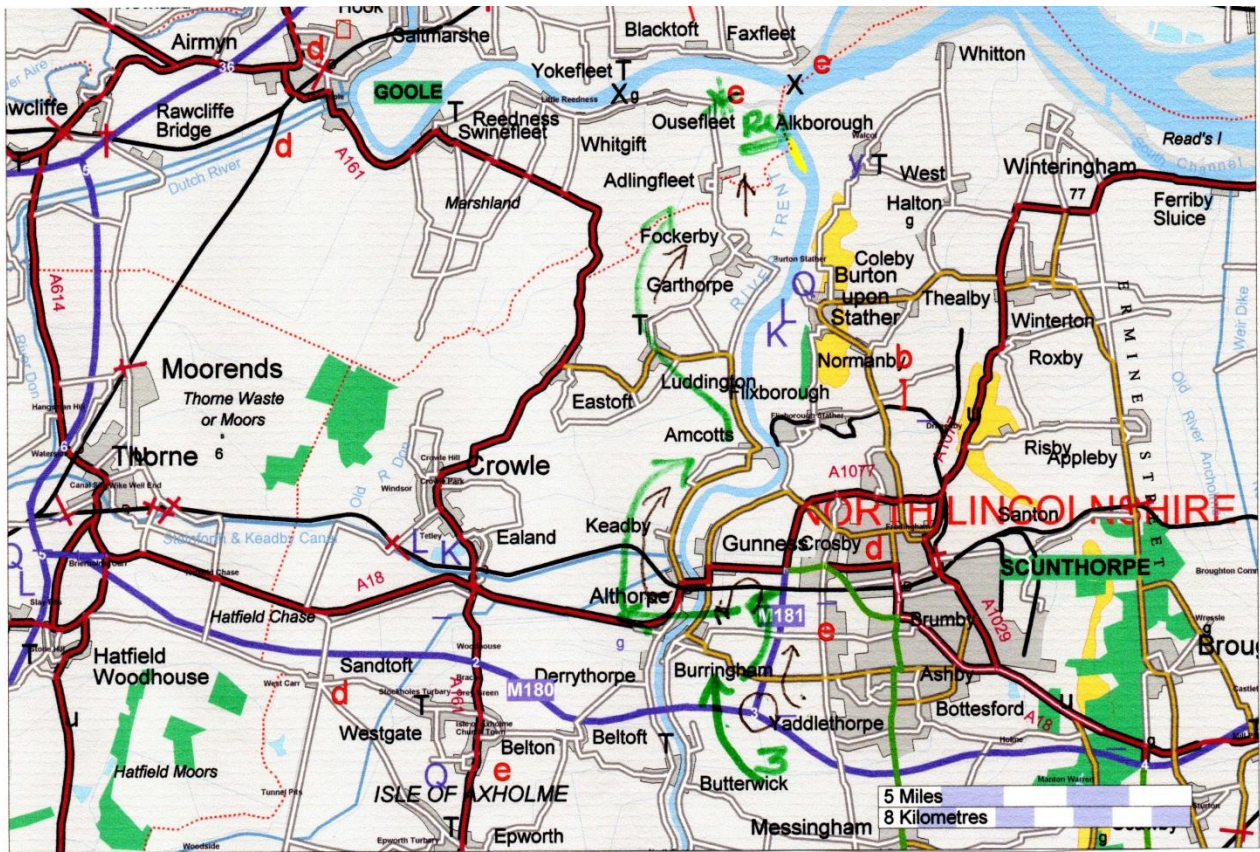
We propose to meet at the Reserve at 10.15. a.m. Allow between 1 and 1½ hours depending on where you live in the County. John Howard.

How to get there Grid Ref. SE 843232 (Scunthorpe O.S. 1:50,000 No. 112)

Get on to the M180 west-bound. Turn off at Junction 3, (M181), then left to Gunness, turn left again and cross Trent at Keadby Bridge. Go north on B1392 to Luddington, Garthorpe, & Adlingfleet. Continue north to corner, (2 kms.). The lane to the Reserve is on the right near confluence of Ouse, Trent, and Humber rivers. There is no village.

Please see maps on page 3

* P.S. I have now made a provisional booking for lunch at the White Hart, Crowle, at 1 p.m.



TRAIL GUIDE



Blacktoft Sands

RSPB nature reserve

Wetland oasis



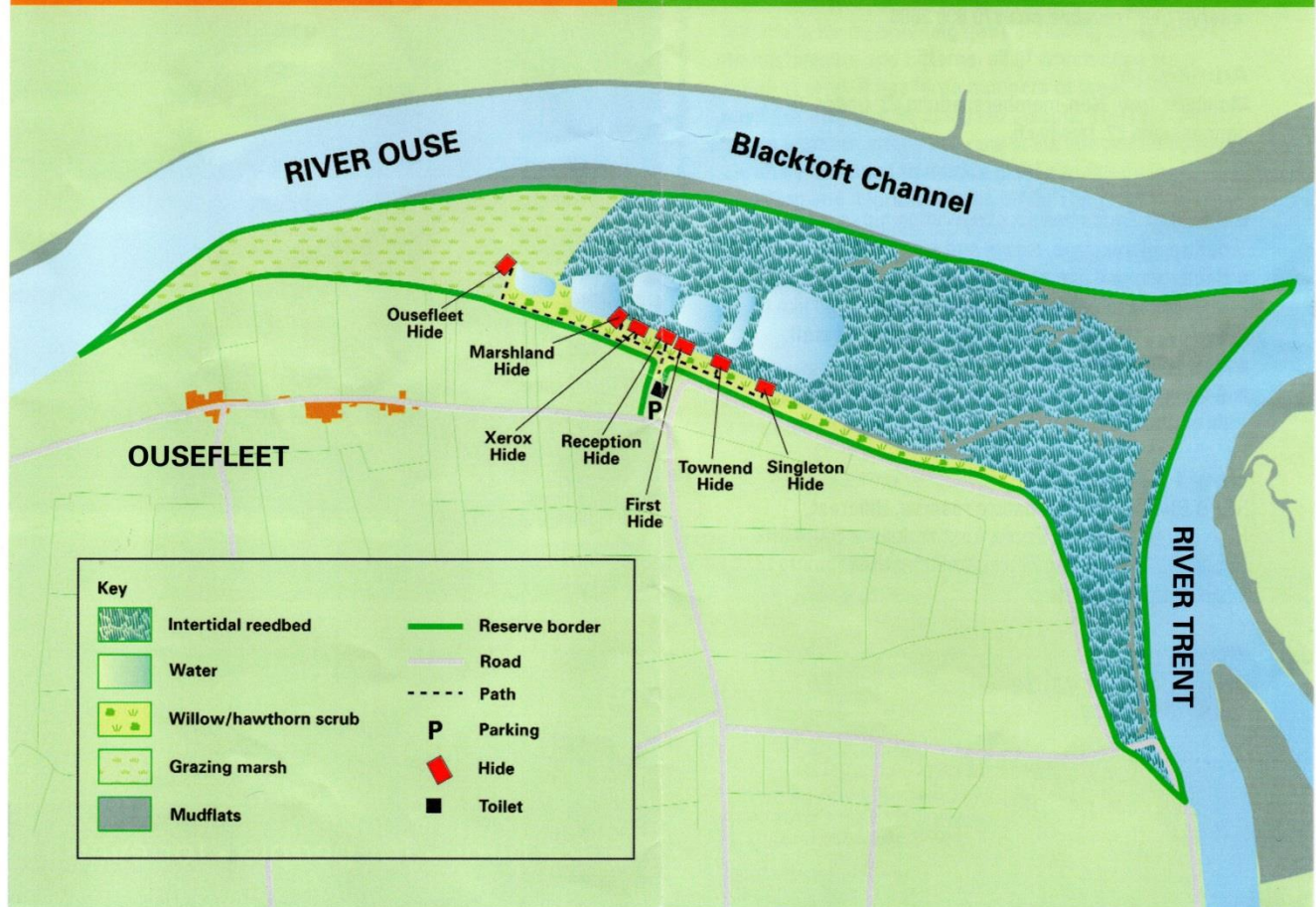
for birds • for people • for ever

RESERVE FACT FILE

- 270 species of bird recorded and around 60 have bred
- one of the highest concentrations of reed warblers and reed buntings in the north of England
- an important site for the rare marsh sow-thistle
- home to many specialised insects, including 300 species of moth, 50 species of beetle and 75 species of fly
- mammals include brown hares, harvest mice, water voles, water shrews and roe deer.

Conservation management

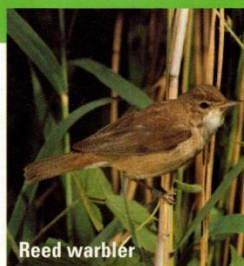
- In autumn and winter, we cut reeds in rotation to provide ideal conditions for bearded tits, marsh harriers, bitterns and reed warblers.
- In summer, we lower water levels on the lagoons to expose mud where avocets, lapwings and redshanks and their chicks and migrating wading birds can feed.
- In autumn, up to 50 cattle graze the marsh to provide suitable conditions for wintering wildfowl.
- In winter, we raise water levels to attract ducks, geese, ruffs, lapwings and golden plovers. We also manage the willow scrub by coppicing areas in rotation (cutting bushes down to ground level to encourage new growth).



What to see when

Spring

- Marsh harriers arrive from mid-February. See their spectacular courtship displays high over the reserve.
- Look out for summer visitors as spring migration peaks in April and May.
- Cuckoos, turtle doves and up to eight species of warbler can be heard singing as the reserve comes alive with birds.



Reed warbler

M Richards (rspb-images.com)

Summer

- Calm mornings from late June are great for seeing bearded tits around the lagoon edges along with reed and sedge warblers feeding young.
- Avocets and other wading birds feeding chicks in front of the hides are easy to see.
- Look for the acrobatic marsh harriers passing food to each other in mid-air.



Avocet

C H Gomersall (rspb-images.com)

Autumn

- Watch migrating wading birds feeding and resting on the lagoons from late June to October. Spotted redshanks, greenshanks, black-tailed godwits, ruffs and dunlins can be seen on the lagoons. Rarer species such as wood sandpipers, curlew sandpipers and little stints can be found occasionally.
- Keep your eyes peeled for water rails running around the lagoon edges.
- Look out for spectacular roosts of sand martins and swallows.
- Listen for the 'pinging' calls of flocking bearded tits on calm October mornings.

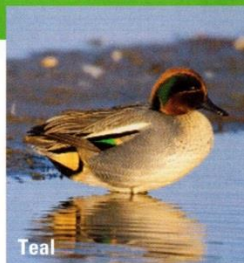


Dunlin

B Hughes (rspb-images.com)

Winter

- Look carefully for hen harriers and merlins coming in to the reedbed to roost as dusk descends.
- Hundreds of teals and wigeons provide a wildfowl spectacle from the Ousefleet hide.
- Stop near the flood bank to see the flock of tree sparrows.



Teal

G Downey (rspb-images.com)

Welcome to the RSPB's Blacktoft Sands nature reserve

Blacktoft Sands is part of the exciting complex of habitats around the Humber estuary. You have an excellent chance to see a fascinating range of birds and other wildlife at any time of year. Blacktoft has protection as a Site of Special Scientific Interest and as part of the Upper Humber Special Protection Area. The RSPB first took over the land in 1973 and now manages more than 200 hectares of tidal reedbed, saline lagoons, grazing marsh and willow scrub.

Habitats

Our inter-tidal reedbed is the largest in England and important for its breeding birds including bearded tits, marsh harriers and bitterns, all of which need large areas of reed. It has large numbers of breeding reed warblers and rare, specialised insects. The reserve has saline lagoons, which are rare in Europe and need to be carefully managed to ensure ideal conditions for breeding and migrant wading birds. The grazing marsh is important for wintering ducks and breeding wading birds. Willow and hawthorn scrub provides food and nest sites for a variety of small birds including tree sparrows, turtle doves and whitethroats.

Visiting the reserve

The reserve is open every day except Christmas Day from 9 am to 9 pm or dusk if earlier.



C H Gomersall (rspb-images.com)



A Hay (rspb-images.com)

Location

Grid Reference SE 843232. Blacktoft Sands is on the south side of the River Ouse approximately eight miles east of Goole on the unclassified road from Swinefleet to Adlingfleet. For information on public transport to the reserve call Traveline on 0870 608 2608.

Admission

Members free. Non-members: adults £3, under-16 £1, concessions £2, family £6.

Useful information

- Blacktoft Sands has six observation hides, a reception centre, picnic area, toilets and a car park for visitors.
- Reception and five of the observation hides are accessible to wheelchair users; if you would like to borrow a wheelchair just ask a member of staff.
- Binoculars can be hired.
- A comprehensive events programme operates throughout the year.

How to contact us

RSPB Blacktoft Sands nature reserve, Hillcrest, High Street, Whitgift, Goole, East Yorkshire DN14 8HL
Tel: 01405 704665. E-mail blacktoft.sands@rspb.org.uk
www.rspb.org.uk



for birds
for people
for ever

The RSPB works for a healthy environment rich in birds and wildlife. It depends on the support and generosity of others to make a difference.

Regd charity no 207076

BK-1176-02-03

11th December 2003

Mr. Rodney Cousins gave us a light-hearted QUIZ which was followed by a "Faith Lunch" - a very enjoyable morning and well attended.

Thursday. 18th December 2003

Annual Christmas Lunch at the "Limes Hotel"

