

Skylarks

Nature Reserve



All about Skylarks

Skylarks Nature Reserve is an attractive wetland nature reserve owned by Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust. We helped to create this green space back in 1982, specifically designing it so that wheelchair users can easily access the site - this was the first specially designed accessible nature reserve in the UK! In 2014 we successfully purchased a further 36ha of land and water to the south of Adbolton Lane, creating the largest nature reserve in Rushcliffe.

Skylarks was once a commercial gravel pit, and has been carefully restored so that the holes left by extraction are now a valuable wetland habitat for a variety of wildlife. Additionally there are areas of grassland, scrub and woodland, providing shelter for a wide variety of birds, mammals, insects and plants.

Many wetland birds can be spotted, including great crested grebe, kingfisher and reed bunting as well as species such as ringed plover and lapwing. Butterflies to look out for include meadow brown, common blue, small heath and orange tip. Keep an eye out for frogs, toads and newts enjoying the shelter provided by the densely clustered reeds. In spring and summer, the reserve is also an excellent place to spot damselflies and dragonflies soaring across the water's surface, or through the surrounding reeds.

The wide and varied flora includes marsh marigold, oxlip and cowslip. The delicate Southern marsh and spotted orchids also grow here. Skylarks is also home to many trees, including several species of willow, alder, ash, rowan, birch and oak.

Holme Pierrepont Country Park is next to the reserve, and has cafes and other facilities for you to enjoy on your visit.



When to go

In winter look out for redwing, fieldfare and wildfowl such as smew, gadwall and tufted duck, and in summer common tern, yellow wagtail, reed warbler and sedge warbler are regular visitors.

The pretty grey wagtail visits in summer, and that's also the time of the year to watch out for black tailed skimmer dragonflies, basking on the gravel banks and green hairstreak butterflies camouflaged against the trees.

Protecting **Wildlife** for the Future



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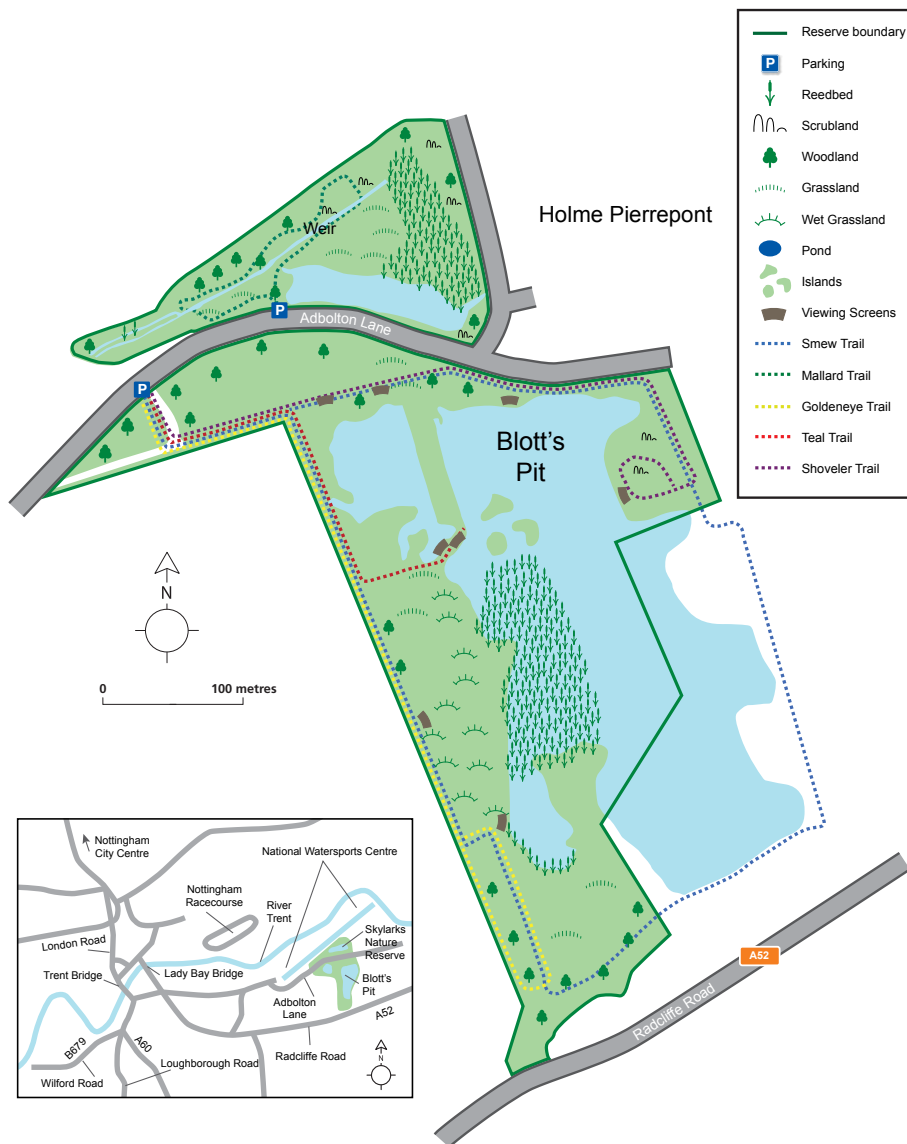


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How to get there

From the A52 Gamston roundabout follow signs for the Watersports Centre onto Adbolton Lane. The reserve lies to either side of Adbolton Lane approximately 300 metres past the entrance to the Watersports Centre (grid reference SK619390). If using satnav, enter NG12 2LU, continue driving along Adbolton Lane past three entrances to the Country Park. There is a small car park on the right hand side of the road, which gives access to the southern part of the reserve, and a layby further along the road gives access to the northern part. Toilets and a café are available at Holme Pierpont Country Park.



Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust

We are Nottinghamshire's largest environmental charity. We look after over 70 wonderful nature reserves across the county. We also work with families, schools and our network of Wildlife Watch Groups to inspire and educate people about the natural world. By working with farmers and landowners we help to restore habitats and species across Nottinghamshire. Our work to protect wildlife would not be possible without the support of nearly 11,000 members. You can make a real difference by becoming a member today.



www.nottinghamshirewildlife.org

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