

skylarks

a real find



Nottinghamshire

A truly special, diverse and exciting place to enjoy and explore the natural world and local history.

Created in 1982, Skylarks Nature Reserve became the first specially designed accessible nature reserve in the UK, allowing those with limited mobility improved access and better opportunities to experience wildlife and get closer to nature. Now owned by Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, this 8.5 hectare site has been expanded to include a further 38 hectares to the south of Adbolton Lane, where since 2014, with careful planning, management and a dedicated team of volunteers, habitat has been restored as well as new wetland habitat created, resulting in the reserve now being recognised as one of the most important wildlife sites in the Trent valley.

These former commercial gravel pits now comprise of a number of stunning and diverse habitats including lakes, grassland, reed beds, shingle islands, scrub and woodland, making it attractive to a wide variety of invertebrates (14 species of dragonfly), plant life (5 species of orchid), mammals (11 species of bat) and birds (over 200 species) recorded, many of the latter migrate to the reserve to breed or use it as an important refuelling station en-route.

Whether it's a short stroll or a day out discovering wildlife, Skylarks Nature Reserve has routes and walks for all, including a 2 mile footpath linking viewing screens and boardwalks, situated at prime locations around the site, allowing fantastic views and access to lakes, woodlands, ponds, reed beds, meadows, scrapes and islands.

Our landscapes and habitats today are a result of our historical management and use of land for millennia. At Skylarks there is a unique opportunity to see a recreation of Anglo-Saxon structures, such as were found here 900 years ago, built by archaeology volunteers.

how to find skylarks

From the A52 turn into Regatta Way following signs for the National Water Sports Centre, follow the road around two large right hand bends at which point the road becomes Adbolton Lane. Continue past the National Water Sports Centre for another 500m where on the right there is a small car park with a Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust sign marking an entrance to the south of the reserve. A little further along on the left is an entrance to the northern section with a layby that has room for no more than two vehicles. If using satnav, use postcode NG12 2LU then continue along Adbolton Lane.

If you are travelling by bus then the number 11 stops close to the junction of Regatta Way and Adbolton Lane, it is then about a miles walk to the reserve. This bus route has now been extended on Sundays only and stops outside the National Water Sports Centre.

www.nottinghamshirewildlife.org