



## Sutton Bank Site Guide - Accessible Tours

Perched on top of Sutton Bank at the edge of the North York Moors lies Sutton Bank National Park Centre. Boasting 'England's finest view' over to the Yorkshire Dales in the distance, it's a multi-purpose centre attracting stargazers, nature enthusiasts, walkers and cyclists.

Sitting on the Cleveland Way, there are miles of paths to explore, or take one of the accessible trails closer to the centre. Whichever one you take, you will be rewarded with fantastic views, exceptional wildlife spotting opportunities and a lungful of fresh air.



Sutton Bank Visitor Centre – North York Moors National Park Authority

## What Can You See?

### Spring

New green growth abounds in the spring, giving the woodlands a fresh, new look. Emerging from the cold winter and basking in warmer temperatures, **Adders** and **Common Lizard** start appear. **Tree Pipits** fly in from their wintering grounds. Male **Woodcocks** perform their display flight over their woodland territories.

### Summer

From late April, the increasingly-scarce visitor - the **European Turtle Dove** start to arrive and visit the famous feeding station located just outside the visitor centre.



European Turtle Dove – Richard Baines



Sutton Bank Visitor Centre – North York Moors National Park Authority

## Autumn

The woodlands turn into a blaze of colour and vegetation dies down making it easier to see species. Late autumn heading into winter, **Common Crossbills** arrive in parties up to a hundred or more to feed on pine, spruce and larch cones, while **Siskins** gather in great numbers too.



Siskin – Richard Baines

## Winter

Although quieter, there is still much to be seen. Birds of prey such as **Sparrowhawk** and **Common Buzzard** are still very active.

## Accessibility Information

Sutton Bank has designed an accessibility guide which is worth taking a look at first. You will find that here: [CLICK HERE](#) They also provide customer support so if you can't find all the information you need, feel free to contact them directly on: 01845 597426 and ask for Chris Pye

**You will also find a summary of how to access the site and what you will find at Sutton Bank below**

## How to get there

The address of Sutton Bank National Park Centre is:

Sutton Bank National Park Centre

Sutton Bank,

Thirsk,

YO7 2EH

If you find it easier to look at a location on Google Maps, you'll find the location right here: [CLICK HERE](#)

### Access by car

Sutton Bank National Park Centre is six miles east of Thirsk (or 7.5 miles west of Helmsley) and sits at the top of Sutton Bank on the A170.

### Access by public transport

#### **Bus**

There is a bus stop at Sutton Bank National Park Centre but services are very limited. The Moors Bus run a regular service during the summer months. Take a look at their website for information:

[www.moorsbus.org](http://www.moorsbus.org)

#### **Train**

The nearest train station is Thirsk, over 7 miles away. You will find more information about accessibility support on this website: [CLICK HERE](#)

#### **Taxi**

Connecting wheelchair-accessible taxis can be pre-booked with REDS taxi company. Their number is:

07760160244 and website is: [CLICK HERE](#)

## **Car parking**

Accessible parking spaces are less than 50 metres from the entrance. Parking costs £3.50 for up to two hours, and £5.50 for all day. There is a drop-off point, with a dropped kerb, at the main entrance.

## **Access to visitor centre reception, toilets, retail area, indoor seating and café**

Access to the visitor centre is level and over 2 metres wide. There are manual doors which are side hung. There are further doors (kept open) leading into the foyer, and a set of automatic doors leading to the National Park Centre and shop.

Indoors, there is level access through the shop and the desk has a low section. Friendly staff are on hand to help if needed.

There is a café on-site accessed over a level surface and through manual doors (see the 'Café' section for more information).

Accessible toilets are in the courtyard and accessed via a level surface (see 'Toilets' for more information).

## **Hearing Loops**

They have a hearing loop in the National Park Centre Information desk.

## **Assistance dogs**

All dogs, including accessibility dogs are permitted.

## **Toilets**

As mentioned above in the 'Access to visitor centre reception, toilets, retail area, indoor seating and café' section, an accessible toilet is located in the courtyard. You will need a RADAR key to open the public toilet which can be obtained from the Information Desk. You can also purchase your own RADAR key for £3.60 from here too. The toilet door is 890mm wide.

## **Cafe**

The cafe has flexible tables and chairs which are situated around a cosy log burning fire. The dining area is self-service but if you need table service, staff can help you. Tables can be booked in advance - please contact: [CLICK HERE](#)

## **Outdoor seating and picnic areas**

There is level access from the car park to the picnic area. Some tables have extra space to allow for wheelchair users.

You can bring your own food and eat this in the picnic area.

## **Mobility support**

Sutton Bank has wheelchairs and a basic mobility scooter to hire for free, although you can leave an optional donation to go towards maintenance if you wish. You don't have to pre-book these, but it is advisable to do so. Please ring 01845 597426 to book.

They have an area to charge your own scooter and battery powered wheelchair.

They are also part of the Outdoor Mobility scheme, so if you are a member, you can book an all-terrain tramper online. Refer to this page for more information and bookings: [CLICK HERE](#)

**Subject to availability we can design tours to coincide with when the trampers are free.**

## **Viewing points and accessible trails**

The reception team will provide you with a map detailing accessible routes and can answer any questions you might have. These maps are also available in braille.

There are accessible walks along sections of The Cleveland Way.

The first is a shorter, circular route to 'The Finest View in England' 500m from the centre.

The second route crosses over the road (cross with care), and turns left towards The White Horse landmark. There are stunning views and seating overlooking the beautiful North York Moors countryside.

There are two tramper routes that extend further along the Cleveland Way. One passes 'England's Finest View' and continues to a turning circle one mile north of the National Park Centre. The second crosses the main road and continues along the escarpment for a mile to the white horse hill figure.

Full details of all the above are available at the National Park Centre.

## **Sutton Bank website and contact details**

Website: [CLICK HERE](#)

Email: [suttonbank@northyorkmoors.org.uk](mailto:suttonbank@northyorkmoors.org.uk)

Phone: 01845 597426 and ask for Chris Pye

## **Yorkshire Coast Nature – here to help**

Yorkshire Coast Nature is a small independent nature tourism company. Every member of our team lives locally and is passionate about wildlife. We believe strongly in delivering eco-tourism with a direct benefit for wildlife and provide annual grants to nature conservation organisations. When you use one of our services you can be assured that you are helping wildlife.

Our tour leaders are highly experienced in the field of natural history and enjoy sharing their knowledge with others. They are friendly, adaptable and sensitive to the needs of individual clients. We are confident that you will enjoy their company as well as their expertise.

**Some of our scheduled tours are suitable for people with accessibility challenges, the best way to find what is suitable for you is to contact us directly (see below).**

**We also offer tailor-made, guided tours at Sutton Bank and other sites. For more info [CLICK HERE](#)**

**All of our wildlife guides are highly experienced, while Richard Baines and Margaret Boyd are Accessibility Champions.**

## **YORKSHIRE COAST NATURE CONTACT INFORMATION**

Please do not hesitate to contact Richard Baines (Wildlife and Birdwatching trips) on 07747753260 or Steve Race (Wildlife Photography workshops) 07767761260

Or email us at [info@yorkshirecoastnature.co.uk](mailto:info@yorkshirecoastnature.co.uk) if you have any questions.