



Top Hill Low Site Guide - Accessible Tours

Situated in between the market towns of Driffield and Beverley, you will find Tophill Low nature reserve. Owned and managed by Yorkshire Water, the site is dominated by two large reservoirs 'D' and 'O' and surrounded by a network of smaller lagoons, marshes, woodlands and grasslands.

This specially protected area offers good wildlife-watching opportunities all year round due to the mix of habitat attracting over 160 species annually. The team here have also logged hundreds of species of plants, butterflies & moths and other insects, so there is much to see here!

The visitor centre overlooking reservoir D provides great viewing opportunities and also has its own wildlife hub with a pond-dipping platform and seated area. Including the visitor centre the area has twelve viewing hides, seven of which are wheelchair accessible.



Top Hill Low accessible hides – Richard Baines leading a Yorkshire Coast Nature tour

What Can You See?

Spring to Summer

The woodland areas surrounding the reservoirs are alive with breeding warblers during spring, with **Garden Warblers** and **Willow Warblers** in the scrub and woodland alongside **Reed Warbler** and **Sedge Warblers** in the wetter areas. **Otters** are secretive and tricky to spot but they are seen all year round. From spring into summer, the reserve is an ideal place to spot **Early Marsh** and **Bee Orchids**, **Dragonflies** and **Damselflies**.



Top Hill Low wetland habitat – Top Hill Low website credit

Autumn

Migrant waders appear, such as **Ruff**, **Green Sandpiper**, **Common Sandpiper**, **Wood Sandpiper**, **Dunlin**, **Northern Lapwing**, **Common Redshank** and **Common Greenshank**. The southern marshes and woodland are one of the best places to see wading birds with practically all UK waders seen here over the years, including some rare birds in the past such as **Lesser Yellowlegs** and **Temminck's Stint**.

Winter

Both reservoirs hold significant numbers of wildfowl with **Common Goldeneye**, **Common Pochard**, **Teal**, **Shoveler**, **Black-necked Grebe**, **Great-crested Grebe** and **Wigeon** through to March. Scarce ducks, grebes and gulls such as **Green Winged Teal**, **Red Necked Grebe**, **Glaucous Gull** and **Iceland Gull** are also possible visitors. Meanwhile thousands of **Common Gulls** descend

here at this time of the year. Keep your eyes peeled for **Common Kingfisher**, **Marsh Harrier**, **Western Barn Owl**, **Water Rail** and **Cetti's Warbler** too.



Common Kingfisher – Richard Baines Top Hill Low



Coot and Black-necked Grebe – Richard Baines Top Hill Low

Accessibility Information

Tophill Low Nature Reserve provides a map, showing viewing hides that are accessible by wheelchair. We have copied it here so you can see the detail before your visit. This map is also available on site when you arrive.



You will find a summary of how to access the site and what you will find here, below.

How to get there

You'll find Top Low Nature Reserve at:

Watton Carrs

Hutton Cranswick

Driffield

East Yorkshire

YO25 9RH

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

Access by car

Take the A164 to Watton, turn left onto Church Lane and follow the signposts for Tophill Low Nature Reserve.

Access by public transport

The nearest train station is Hutton Cranswick, around 4 miles away. Contact the visitor centre (see below) for wheelchair-accessible taxi numbers

Car Parking

Disabled parking places are available by the visitor centre at the main reserve car park.

Access to reception

There is wheelchair access in to the visitor centre reception, which is open at different times of the year. Please contact them ahead of your visit to find opening hours (see contact details below).

Toilets

There is a disability access toilet at the car park by the visitor centre.

No Café on-site

There is no on-site café here. Please take a picnic with you.

Outdoor seating and picnic areas

There are picnic benches, to the south-east of the reception building

Mobility support

They have a mobility scooter available on-site. Book before your visit by using the contact details below.

Subject to availability, we can design tours to coincide with when the mobility scooter is available.

Viewing points and accessible trail

Currently the D Reservoir reception hide, North Marsh, Hempholme Meadows, North Lagoon, South Lagoon Main and South Marsh East hides are wheelchair accessible. Please refer to the map to see where these are located. Access to most of the reserve is via easy access paths in general, though the few mown paths can become muddy in winter.

Top Hill Low Nature Reserve website

See below for their website and contact details for further information: [CLICK HERE](#)
and their blog page: [CLICK HERE](#)

Contact number is: 01377 270690 or alternatively email: richard.hampshire@yorkshirewater.co.uk

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 Top Hill Low 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 if you have any questions.