

# Whisby Nature Park

Lakes fringed by beds of reedmace, grassy glades, willow scrub and pockets of woodland; a place of quiet enjoyment and a place for quiet study. Not long ago this landscape was barren and lifeless, created by quarrying for sand and gravel. Now, life abounds throughout the nature reserve.

## Starting over

Since the 1930s this area had been quarried for sand and gravel, leaving behind a lifeless landscape of pits and bare sands. Now, it is a landscape of renewal, as nature gradually reclaims and starts over. In the 19th century and before there would have been extensive heathlands. Fragments remain and through careful management are being restored. At Little Heath you can see heather and hawkweed: characteristic heathland plants.

## From tiny mosses to towering oaks

Over 500 plant species have been found here. Whatever the season you will find something of beauty. Delicate mosses and lichens encrusted on trees, marsh orchids blooming in their thousands; and lesser celandine and blackthorn heralding spring.

## Water and wetlands

Many marshes and ponds have disappeared from our countryside so these man-made lakes are vital for many species. In spring, watch for great crested grebes doing their ritual courtship dance. From spring through to autumn, sand martins and swallows wheel over water as they feed on insects. Winter brings a variety of wildfowl, arriving from Scandinavia to take advantage of our mild winters.



## How to find us

**Car:** Whisby Nature Park is 7 miles south west from Lincoln and is signposted from the A46. Car park open 10:00am to 4:00pm. There is a small charge for parking.

**Bus:** There is a bus service to Thorpe on the Hill and a 10 minute walk to Whisby Nature Park.

**Cycle:** There are bike racks provided. Cycling is not permitted within the Nature Park.

**Whisby Warden Service** - site management, guided walks and volunteer opportunities.  
Tel: 01522 500676  
Email: whisbynyp@lincstrust.co.uk

**Education Centre** - for schools, universities, children's activities, lifelong learning courses and events  
Tel: 01522 696926  
Email: whisbyeducation@lincstrust.co.uk

**Natural World Centre** - Boardwalk Cafe, shop and Little Darters Wildlife Adventure Area and Otters Reach Indoor Adventure.  
Tel: 01522 688868  
www.naturalworldcentre.com

Cover images: Nightingale by Russell Hayes  
Grebe Lake by Neil Roberts

Lincolnshire  
COUNTY COUNCIL



[www.lincstrust.org.uk](http://www.lincstrust.org.uk)

# Whisby Nature Park Local Nature Reserve



**Lincolnshire**  
Wildlife Trust



**Protecting wildlife for the future**



These waymarked trails take you to the most interesting and attractive places. Footpaths are level and in many places have a hard surface of compacted limestone. Please keep to these footpaths as some areas are potentially dangerous, particularly the deep water and disused washing channels.

### Thorpe Walk

Yellow waymarkers - 1.2miles - 2km

Allow 45 minutes

Footpath: compacted limestone. Attractive open views. Whisby's deepest lake.

### Grebe Walk

Orange waymarkers - 1.3miles - 2.1km

Allow 45 minutes

Footpath surface: compacted limestone. This is the most diverse wetland habitat. Hides have wheelchair access.

### Coot Walk

Red waymarkers - 1.3miles - 2.1km

Allow 1 hour and 15 minutes

Footpath surface: compacted limestone and grass along the West Lake extension. This is the best place in Whisby to encounter the elusive nightingale.

### Magpie Walk

Green waymarkers - 2miles - 3.2km

Allow 1 hour and 15 minutes

Footpath surface: compacted limestone. The most scenic landscapes are on this walk including the small Dragonfly Lakes, the open Grazing Marsh and dune like Sandhills.

### Willow Walk

Black waymarkers - 2.2miles - 3.6km

Allow 1 hour 30 minutes

Footpath surfaces: compacted limestone  
An extension to Magpie Walk through beautiful woodland with views across Willow Lake.

### Teal Walk

Blue waymarkers - 1.5miles - 2.4km

Allow 1 hour and 45 mins

Footpath surfaces: compacted limestone. A scenic walk around our largest lake. The western lagoon is often full of birds in autumn and early winter.

## Make the most of your visit

Whisby is a valuable place for both common and rare species of wildlife. The conservation management of the area ensures that wildlife habitats are maintained and improved.

## Enjoy your visit!

There are six waymarked trails.

Use the hides (marked H) and viewing screen (marked S) to get closer views of birds. Please enter and leave quietly to avoid disturbing the birds and other wildlife.

## Help your dog be a friend to wildlife

This is a nature reserve. Dogs can scare wildlife and cause birds to flee an area. Please keep your dog on a lead.

Dogs can be walked off the lead at Thorpe Lake provided they are under close control.

Please clean up after your dog.

