

Toby's Hill

Location & Access

OS: 113 • **GR:** TF 453 943 • 9.10ha (22.64 acres) • Freehold 1997

Habitat type: Coastal

The reserve is close to Donna Nook National Nature Reserve and lies alongside the main A1031 coastal road in the village of Saltfleet. Access is via a kissing-gate off Marsh Lane (a rough road, left off Sea Lane), where there is limited parking space on the verge. Large lorries regularly use Marsh Lane on their way to the chicken farm, so park with care or alternatively, use the public car park at the seaward end of the lane.

There are no designated paths. Dogs are allowed but must be on a lead and under close control when grazing is taking place (indicated by temporary signs).

Description & Management

The Toby's Hill area is a remnant of a 700 year old dune system which was separated from the present-day coastline by 19th century land reclamation. The reserve is named after the main hill, possibly the highest dune summit on the Lincolnshire coast; it is believed to have been artificially raised to improve its use as a war-time watchpoint/beacon site. The reserve is largely dune grassland with scrub and is of considerable botanical interest. The common grassland butterflies are all found on the reserve in very good numbers and there is a large breeding population of 'garden' birds.

The site had been protected from recreation or development damage but due to the lack of appropriate management, the nature conservation interest had been declining with the grassland largely dominated by coarse

grasses and the area of scrub steadily increasing. The Trust now manages the reserve with the aim of enhancing floral diversity; grazing has been reintroduced and the amount of scrub is reduced. Small shallow scrapes have been excavated and some of these will be managed to encourage breeding by natterjack toads, which already occur on the nearby Saltfleetby Dunes National Nature Reserve.

