

Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust

Scotton Common



Location & Access

OS: 112 • **GR:** SK 873 985 • 63.6ha (158.10 acres) • Freehold 1954

Habitat type: Heathland

The reserve lies on the left-hand side of the road leading to Scotton village from the A159 Gainsborough-Scunthorpe road. There are two entrances to the reserve. Some 300m from the A159, on the left is a small footpath with restricted parking. Please avoid parking on the protected roadside verge. A further 1km (0.6 miles) down is the main entrance where a gate gives access to a car park. Once on the reserve, please take special care during the nesting season. Adders occur in the reserve. There is a high fire risk during the summer months.

Description & Management

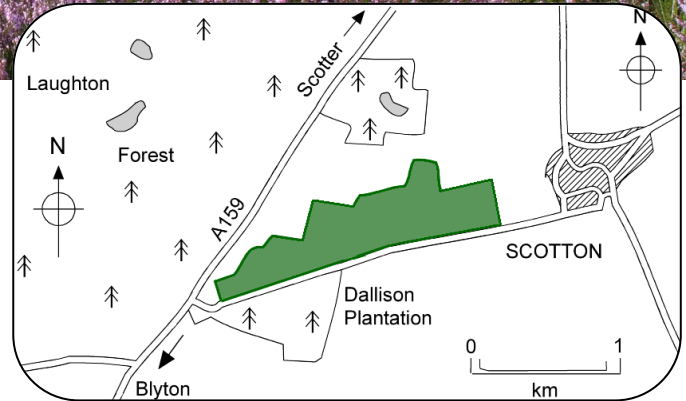
Following Joe Duddington's death in 1992 at the age of 81, the reserve was dedicated to him. Joe was a well known and loved local lepidopterist. There is a memorial stone erected in his memory near the car park.

This low-lying tract, the largest remaining fragment of the once extensive heathlands of Scotton Common, is covered in its drier parts by ling and developing oak, birch and pine woodland. At the eastern end of the heath, on ground that was ploughed in the Second World War, wavy hairgrass is dominant. In wetter parts there is purple moor-grass and crossleaved heath; rarer species, such as bog asphodel and marsh gentian, also occur. To save it from destruction on a nearby site, the shrubby bog myrtle has been established in the reserve. Although some species of butterfly have become scarce or even disappeared in recent years, the list of butterflies and moths is impressive and includes a thriving population of emperor moths. Sandy banks attract solitary mining bees. Breeding birds include tree pipit and woodlark. Adders and common lizards are numerous.

The principal management problems, as on most of our heathland reserves, are to maintain open heath by preventing encroachment of birch and pine scrub, and to halt the loss of wet heath species, such as

sundews, which are suffering from a falling water-table. Since 1993 some 4ha (10 acres) of birch and pine have been felled. The whole reserve is now enclosed with sheep fencing, and grazing with Hebridean sheep prevents birch regrowth. It is hoped that tree removal will make the reserve wetter again. Nightjars have not bred for some years, but it is hoped that they may return.

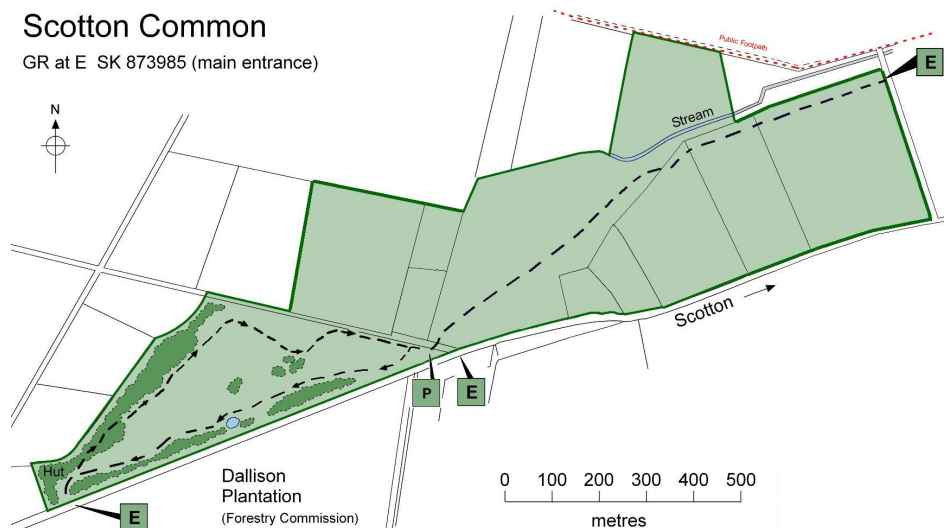
The long verges adjoining the reserve are protected by the County Council and the Trust (PRV 015). While visiting the reserve, walk along the verge bordering the reserve where you will see vetches, clovers, marsh thistle, comfrey and twayblade among the many grasses. On the opposite side of the road look for bog pimpernel in the ditches, and ferns and mosses on the banks. Many butterflies are to be seen, including brimstone, ringlet and skipper.



In 1988 an area of heathy fields of around 16ha (40 acres) to the north of the old reserve, known as Scotton Beck Fields, was purchased by the Trust. This area, which is reached by turning right off the access track between the car park and the road via a bridge and stile, is rich in heathland plants, including ling, cross-leaved heath and marsh gentian. The beck and streamside support bur-reed, floating sweet-grass, fool's water-cress, water mint and water forget-me-not. The old meanders contain kingcup, cuckooflower and marsh violet.

Scotton Common

GR at E SK 873985 (main entrance)



P Parking space **E** Entrance **H** Bird Hide