

What is Beckford Nature Reserve?

The area now occupied by Beckford Nature Reserve was originally a playing field for the Catholic Monastery College located at Beckford Hall. Before the college closed the land was sold to Huntsmans Quarries Limited, who gained planning permission to extract sand and gravel - on the understanding that after extraction the land was returned to a nature conservation area for the benefit of the local communities.

Huntsmans last worked the quarry in 1987, restoration of the land was completed in 1989. In 2008 it was purchased by the people of Beckford as a community nature reserve. Beckford Nature Reserve is a registered charity that is run by a group of volunteer trustees and a warden who organises working parties to maintain the reserve.

The reserve contains a number of wildlife habitats that have evolved partly through natural progression but also by careful management - assisted by local conservationists.

The acquisition and management of the Nature Reserve aims to broaden an appreciation of the environment in general and this unique site, with its remarkable examples of unusual plants, insects and birds.

A special place

Don't just walk through the reserve - take your time and try to spot some of the more unusual creatures and plants. The reserve is home to sand martins, a number of rare orchids, great crested newts and a host of interesting insects. The South Hide contains wildlife information. Access to the hide is via a combination lock. The combination can be obtained from any trustee by using the **Contact Us** section of our website

Visiting Beckford Nature Reserve

Nature Reserves are important places for wildlife and welcomes responsible access. Please....

- leave footprints, not rubbish
- take photographs, not plant life
- keep your dog on a lead and use dog bins provided
- respect the hides so that others may enjoy them
- leave cycles at the gates
- leave the water for the ducks

How to find us

The reserve is located just to the north of Beckford, sandwiched between Court Farm Lane and the Ashton Road - both with access to the reserve. Beckford itself is situated on the A46 between the M5 motorway (exit 9) and Evesham, about 5 miles from the motorway. Enter Beckford via either Station Road (by The Beckford Inn) or Back Lane.



The reserve is **open all year** with **free** entrance.

Access is via two main gates - one from Court Farm Lane and disabled access via the special gate from the Ashton Road. Adjacent to the disabled entrance there is a small pull-in that is suitable for one or two cars - reserved for those with limited mobility. We suggest that able bodied visitors park at Beckford Village Hall and take a 5 minute walk to the Court Farm Lane Entrance.

The nature reserve website includes a comprehensive database of all the wildlife that has been seen in the reserve. If you have enjoyed your visit, why not visit the website and update the database with your sightings - even if there is already an entry we would still like you to add your sightings so that we can track changes in the reserve.

As a charity, Beckford Nature Reserve depends on the goodwill and financial support of people like you - and the people of Beckford. Please visit the Beckford Nature Reserve website to find out more...

www.beckfordnature.org.uk

The website gives more information about the history of the Reserve, and explains how you can donate.



Find us on Facebook -
'beckfordnature'



Beckford Nature Reserve is a registered charity no. 1119366

Beckford Nature Reserve

Visitor's Guide



BECKFORD

Nature Reserve

a haven of peace in a busy world



Seasonal highlights

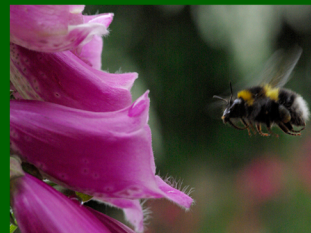
Spring

- See primroses, violets and bluebells on the woodland floor
- Watch moorhens and coots nest building
- The small island is home to the larger water birds' nests
- Look out for nesting birds all over the reserve
- See if you can spot the greylag geese



Summer

- Dragon flies are common throughout the reserve
- How many different waterfowl chicks can you spot?
- The great crested newt was spotted in July 2008
- Watch sand martins feeding their young at the old quarry face
- Orchids grow all around the lake



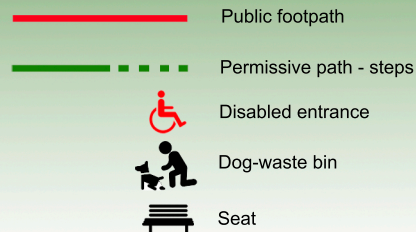
Autumn

- Autumn leaves and berries add a splash of colour
- Look out for some unusual fungi around the reserve
- You may spot some rare waterfowl on their annual migration south
- Watch the huge flocks of canada geese land and take off from the lake

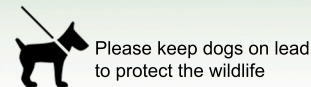


Winter

- Look out for the mallards, teals and wigeons from the hides
- Many water birds spend the winter on the sheltered lake
- Come early for the frosty scenes
- The woodland areas have been left to the native birds and animals.



Distance around lake - 1km
Please keep to marked paths



Deciduous Woodland
young woodland with small open glades.
small birds, insects and large mammals.



Rough Grassland
rough grassland with trees and shrubs. Site of viewing hide.
Ants and other insects, butterflies and small mammals.



Quarry Face
Remnant of former quarry face - retained as an SSSI for its geological value.
Colonized by Sand Martins, Mining Bees and other aculeates (stinging insects) and insects requiring bare ground habitat



Scrub Grassland
rough grassland with trees and shrubs. Small birds, insects, butterflies and small mammals.
Grazing land for water birds.