

# Coatham Marsh Nature Reserve

## Reserve area: 54 hectares

Map reference: OS map 93 ( 1: 50000)  
Middlesbrough and Darlington  
grid reference N Z 585247

## Description

Coatham Marsh is probably the most ecologically valuable wetland area on the south bank of the Tees. Twenty hectares of ancient marsh crossed by a freshwater fleet, is bounded by rich grassland and two freshwater lakes.

## Access

The reserve car park is reached from Tod Point Road, see directions and map. The reserve can also be reached from the western end of Locke Park, please take care crossing the road!

## Facilities

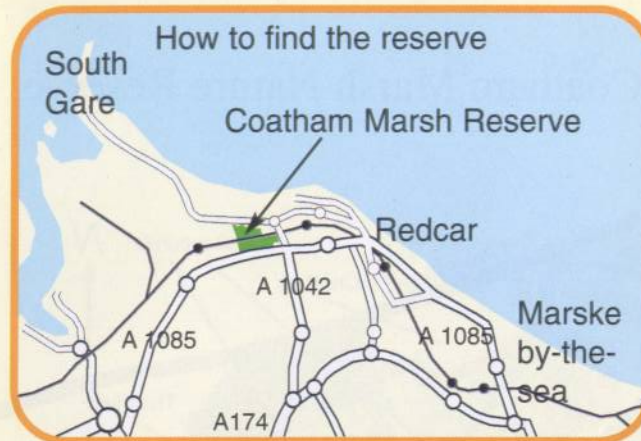
There are three bird-watching hides one of which is accessible to wheelchairs. Most paths are surfaced but in very wet weather some places may be inaccessible/muddy. Nearest refreshments are at the shop in Warrenby. Nearest public toilets are on the seafront in Redcar.

## Ownership

Coatham Marsh is owned by Corus and managed by Tees Valley Wildlife Trust.

## Education Opportunities

Coatham Marsh offers a wide range of habitats for students to study. We can also provide guided walks linked to the national curriculum with our education staff. If you would like more information please contact the Tees Valley Wildlife trust.



## Directions

**From the A19** - Take the A174 (signposted Redcar)  
At the 2nd roundabout take the 2nd exit (signposted Redcar)  
Pass straight through set of traffic lights between Car Sales and Locke Park.  
At mini roundabout turn left, reserve is about 2/3 miles on your left just over old rail bridge.

Photographic Acknowledgements: K Crooks, S Laskey, D O'Brian, Darin Smith



## Tees Valley Wildlife Trust

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Tees Valley wildlife Trust is a registered charity. No. 511068

# Tees Valley Wildlife Trust



# Coatham Marsh Nature Reserve



*A Rich  
and Varied  
Wetland Habitat*

Protecting **Wildlife** for the Future

When you take a train, use something made of metal, like a car, or throw something in the bin you are almost certainly having an effect far beyond your wildest imaginings. It is these very things that, unplanned, have made Coatham Marsh the richly varied and valuable wetland habitat that it now is.



### Fresh Water from Trains!

The building of the railway line in the 19th century cut the site off from the sea. The Marsh has gradually become less salty with large areas of freshwater marsh replacing salt marsh, changing many of the animals and plants that live here.

### Orchids from Steel!

Lime rich slag from the iron and steel industry has been dumped here for years. The soil in some places has changed so much that plants rarely seen in the area can be found, such as the exotic looking bee orchid.

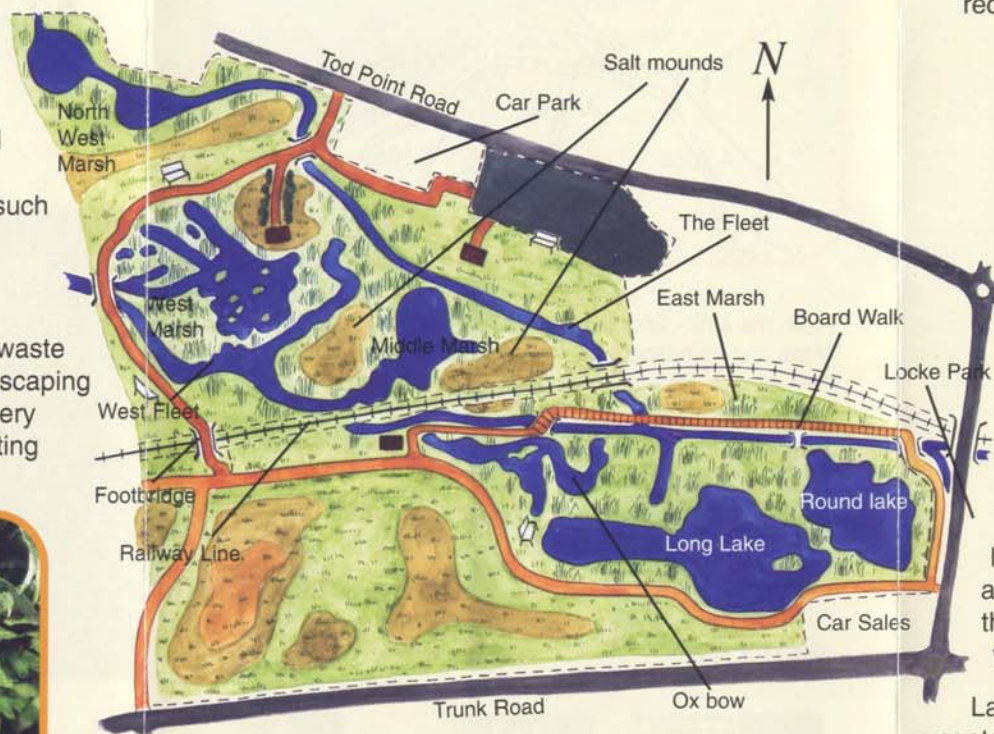
### Lakes from Waste!

Parts of the marsh were used for household waste tipping in the 1950s. When this finished, landscaping produced two lakes that add to the Marsh's very valuable role as an important habitat and resting stop on a major bird migration route.



The migrant hawker dragonfly could never live in salt water; it's one of the winners. There have been losers as well, such as salt marsh rush and sea spurrey, which only just cling on here and will eventually be driven out as the patches of salty ground finally vanish.

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### Key

- Hide
- Seat
- Water
- Grassland
- Marshland

### A Wildfowl Haven

The reserve is a focus for many species of birds particularly water fowl and waders, large numbers of which use it as a refuelling and resting stop during migration. Over 200 species of birds have been recorded at Coatham Marsh.



### How does the Trust manage the reserve?

If the marsh, lakes and grassland aren't managed, a process called natural succession will lead to these habitats changing beyond all recognition to woodland.

Lakes and marshes slowly clog up with dead vegetation and the reed spreads where once was open water. Gradually willow and other trees start to grow and woodland takes over. Management at Coatham Marsh aims to stop this process by regular clearing of reeds at the water margins.

Where possible the grassland is cut annually to prevent succession of scrub and woodland and also to encourage the growth of wild flowers. This in turn creates ideal habitats for grassland insects and small mammals.