

# Burton Mere Wetlands

## Finding your way around

### Gorse Covert Woodland trail

A 600 metre woodland trail. It's full of bluebells and birdsong in spring and offers a splendid burst of colour in autumn.

The old oaks and big beeches here offer a home to birds, bugs, bats and badgers. Spot the wooden sculptures along the path, and search for earwigs and centipedes in the leaf litter. Try building a den in the special area near the car park. It can be muddy in winter, so it's best to wear stout boots.

### Burton Mere trail

A relaxing stroll around the old fishery pools, this 900 metre trail is fully accessible and often the best place to watch dragonflies and damselflies.

Years ago, ice was carved from the mere to be stored at the icehouse at nearby Burton Manor. Now it's home to ducks and coots, with a dense mat of water lilies. Look out for the fish which have survived from the days as a fishery, but now keep the kingfishers fed! Enjoy a picnic at one of the tables or soak up the relaxing view from one of the benches.

### Reed and Fen trail

Enjoy a stroll along the edge of the reedbed on this 1.1 km trail. The path is fully accessible up to the Marsh Covert hide,

Rare birds like reed warblers, bitterns and marsh harriers make their home here, as well as mute swans and moorhens. The Marsh Covert hide offers an elevated view into the reedbed. The carpet of purple marsh orchids looks stunning from here in summer. Venture past the hide and the path takes you across a boardwalk through fen and onto wildlife-friendly farmland, with open views across the pools.

### Farm and Willow trail

This 500 metre trail takes in a variety of surroundings including open arable farmland and ends at the Inner Marsh Farm hide.

A whole field is dedicated to feeding birds – one of our giant bird tables. Amble up the hill for great views (and for a rest on the bench!). Walking down the hill, you pass through the wet alder woodland and willow trees to the hide. Inner Marsh Farm was the name of the abandoned land the RSPB bought here in 1986 to start creating this rich home for nature.

### Hillfort trail

Follow this 250 metre trail across grazed pasture to the top of Burton Point headland.

Here you will get unrivalled views of the estuary and back across Burton Mere Wetlands. Relax in this secluded spot surrounded by bluebells in spring, watch flocks of ducks and geese moving around the saltmarsh in winter, and discover our hidden gem, the remains of Wirral's only Iron Age Hillfort.

