



Durham
Wildlife Trust
From Tees to Tyne

Low Barns Nature Reserve



About Low Barns

One of our region's most important wildlife sites, Low Barns, bordered by the River Wear, is a Site of Special Scientific Interest due to the wide range of habitats including wet woodland, grassland, open water and river side, which are home to many different types of birds, mammals, plants and insects.

Hundreds of years ago Low Barns was a mill, it later became a farm. The site was then used for sand and gravel extraction until 1964, when the area was given to Durham Wildlife Trust and restored as a nature reserve.

In 2003 a redundant sewage treatment works on the site was replaced with a new reedbed habitat and a boardwalk which enabled public access with minimal disturbance to wildlife.



Durham Wildlife
Charity Number
501038

What is a Nature Reserve?

- A place where wildlife is protected.
- Animals and plants are wild and are not kept as pets.
- Animals are not in cages, like in a safari park, they can come and go as they please.



Photo by Mick Byrne



We do not feed the animals, except for some bird at feeding stations so people to see and photograph them, they find all their own food

When you arrive.....

- The bus will drop you off at the Visitor Centre where we will meet you and take you into the Education Room.
- You will be able to leave your lunches and spare clothes in the Education Room while you are out doing activities.



We won't stay indoors for long because there is lots to do and see outside. Low Barns has different habitats to explore.....

- Grasslands
- Woodlands
- Pond



Will we find the same plants and animals in all these habitats?

Low Barns



What will we see at Low Barns?

We don't want to spoil the surprise for you but you will see lots of different types of plants and animals.

Sometimes we might not see them but we might hear them. What animals do you think we might hear?



Sometimes we need to look for signs and clues that animals have been here.



Can you think of any signs we could look for?

Be careful of these plants!

- Make sure your legs are covered and you have long sleeves so that you don't get **nettle** stings.

- **Thistles** are prickly but some moths and butterflies love them.

- Look at the shape of this **Hawthorn** leaf. Birds love eating the berries in autumn and insects enjoy the flowers in spring, but be careful, Hawthorn trees have thorns on them.



What will the weather be like at Low Barns?

The weather changes all the time and we like to stay out exploring in all sorts of different weather, so come prepared.

Wear warm clothes and bring water proofs but also be prepared for sunshine



Remember to bring.....

- Packed lunch
- Something to drink
- Waterproof jacket and trousers
- Hat
- Good solid shoes or even better, wellies





We look forward to seeing you at Low Barns Nature Reserve.



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