

# Wildlife sites around York



# Introduction

The City of York is a special place, not only for its history, buildings and archaeology, but also for its wildlife. York supports a wide variety of species and habitats many of which are of national, regional or local conservation importance. York is home to the endangered tansy beetle which until 2014 was only known to occur along stretches of the Rivers Ouse and Foss around York and Selby.

Almost ten percent of the UK's flower-rich ancient flood meadows are found in York. Otters and water voles can be found along the Rivers Ouse and Foss. York is also the site of the country's most northerly example of extensive lowland heath at Strensall Common as well as hosting internationally important populations of wetland birds in the Lower Derwent Valley. The City of York Council has produced this guide to a selection of easily accessible wildlife sites to be found in the York area.

We hope you will enjoy seeing some of the amazing wildlife living in York. Please respect these precious places, follow 'The Countryside Code' and obey any local regulations. Most of the sites are accessible using public transport or designated cycle routes.

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-  Woodland
-  Grassland
-  Wetland
-  Heath/scrub

-  Plants/flowers
-  Birds
-  Insects
-  Mammals
-  Reptiles
-  Amphibians
-  Fish

## Access via

-  Bus
-  Footpath
-  Cycle path

## 1 Acomb Wood and Meadow Local Nature Reserve

SE 570 494 | YO24 3XN



Access – Acomb Wood Drive

Disabled Access – Yes

Regulations – keep dogs on a lead



See [www.york.gov.uk](http://www.york.gov.uk) – search for  
Acomb Wood and Meadow

Acomb Wood (East) is a mature, even-aged woodland dominated mainly by oak. Typical species include robin, great tit, blue tit, wood mouse and grey squirrel.

Acomb Wood Meadow is an example of agriculturally unimproved neutral grassland. Typical flowers include meadowsweet, greater birds-foot trefoil, common knapweed and meadow vetchling. The meadow also attracts a variety of butterflies including common blue, small skipper and small copper.

## 1 Acomb Wood (West)

SE 570 494 | YO24 3XN



Access – Acomb Wood Drive

Disabled Access – Yes

Regulations – keep dogs on a lead



See [www.york.gov.uk](http://www.york.gov.uk) – search for  
Acomb Wood and Meadow

A small woodland which makes a welcome break in an otherwise urban landscape. Great-spotted

woodpeckers, tawny owls and tree creepers have been spotted here. The ground flora includes bluebells and dogs' mercury with extensive areas of bramble. Uncommon flowers include sanicle and twayblade. The site is owned and managed by the Woodland Trust.

## 2 Askham Bog

SE575 481 | YO23 2UB



Access – via track adjacent to  
Pike Hills Golf Club

Disabled Access – partially accessible  
via a boardwalk

Regulations – keep dogs on leads,  
no cycling



[www.ywt.org.uk/nature-reserves/  
askham-bog-nature-reserve](http://www.ywt.org.uk/nature-reserves/askham-bog-nature-reserve)

A small, but botanically rich site consisting of fen, bog and woodland. The fen meadows are particularly colourful in June when a profusion of water violets, marsh orchids, ragged robin and yellow flag can be seen. Birds are abundant, including woodcock, buzzard, willow and marsh tits, grasshopper and reed warblers. A good location for woodland birds, roe deer and the enormous royal fern. The site is owned by Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.

### 3 Bachelor Hill, Westfield

SE 567 508 | YO24 3BD



Access from Askham Lane

Disabled Access - No

 1 and 5a

See [www.york.gov.uk](http://www.york.gov.uk) – search for Bachelor Hill

A well-hidden site which provides panoramic views across the city and as far as The Yorkshire Wolds and The North York Moors. Grassy slopes and a copse of pine trees make this an attractive location for picnics. Very unusual in York are areas of exposed sand with clusters of evening primrose adding bright splashes of colour. Part of the site has been enhanced by the addition of wildflowers transferred from a site to be developed.

### 4 Chapman's Pond

SE 579 491 | YO24 2QY



Access – Moor Lane

Disabled Access – Yes

 12 and 14

See [www.york.gov.uk](http://www.york.gov.uk) – search for Chapman's Pond

This former clay workings is one of the five remaining flooded brick pits in York. The pond is well stocked with a variety of coarse fish species and has three fishing platforms. It is surrounded by meadow grassland and scrub woodland. This special



area is a beautiful place to visit for walks and picnics, where there is an abundance of plants and wildlife to enjoy. The pond has always been very popular with anglers and the species of fish present include roach, bream, perch, tench and pike.

### 5 Clifton Backies Local Nature Reserve

SE 598 543 | YO30 6PQ or YO30 6JF



Access - Water Lane or Sutton Way

Disabled Access - Yes

 6 and 9 

[www.cliftonbackies.org.uk](http://www.cliftonbackies.org.uk)

Clifton Backies contains a relatively large area of old, agriculturally-unimproved grassland, together with thickets and hedgerows.

The site previously formed part of Clifton aerodrome. The track verges support an interesting flora. Scrubby areas provide valuable habitat for breeding and wintering birds. Short-eared owls have occasionally been seen in winter hunting over the grassland and Long-eared owl recorded as a possible winter roost.

## 6 Clifton Ings

SE 582 531 | YO30 6LP



Access – via riverside public footpath and cycle route, Water End

Disabled Access – Yes

Regulations – keep to the public footpath adjacent to the river or the cycle route



2, 19, 29, 30, 30X and 31

[designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/PDFsForWeb/Citation/2000770.pdf](https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/PDFsForWeb/Citation/2000770.pdf)

Clifton Ings is an ancient, unenclosed flood meadow, now also a flood storage reservoir, situated beside the River Ouse a short distance upstream of York city centre.

The flood meadow supports a distinctive flora characterised by an abundance of great burnet, meadow buttercup, common sorrel, red clover and meadow vetchling and is nationally designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest along with Rawcliffe Meadows. There are several pairs of reed bunting and meadow pipit. The river corridor and Ings provide valuable feeding habitat for bats using nursery roosts at Clifton Bridge and in various trees nearby.

## 7 Fishponds Wood

SE574 518 | YO26 5JX



Access – via Woodlea Avenue or Danebury Drive

Disabled Access - Yes



[yorkcivictrust.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Fishponds-Wood.pdf](https://yorkcivictrust.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Fishponds-Wood.pdf)

Fishponds Wood is an unusual wood as it is the site of natural springs which produce a damp woodland with water seeping out of the ground in several places. Birds attracted to this wood include long-tailed tit, goldfinch, bullfinch and tree creepers. Frogs and toads are abundant in this wood. A variety of mammals including fox, pipistrelle bats and wood mouse can be seen. Butterflies are attracted to the woodland edge and include red admiral, brimstone and small tortoiseshell.

## 8 Fulford Village Green

SE 608 488 | YO10 4QH



Access via Landing Lane or St Oswald's Court

Disabled access – Yes

Regulations – keep to the public footpaths



Fulford Village Green is part of Fulford Ings an important example of a floodplain wetland, located on low-lying land close to Fulford

Village. Characteristic flowers include butterburr, meadowsweet, great willowherb, meadow cranesbill and common knapweed. The site is home to the rare tansy beetle, an iridescent green beetle which is very rare in the UK.

## 9 Hagg Wood, Dunnington

SE 685 525 | YO19 5NY



Access – via Intake Lane

Disabled Access - Yes

10, 10A, 45 and 45A

[www.fohw.org.uk](http://www.fohw.org.uk)

Hagg Wood is a coniferous woodland, with plenty of wonderful wildlife.

The wood provides a special home for many different types of wildlife including foxes, deer, and woodland birds. At different times of the year you can hear the call of woodpeckers, wood pigeons and cuckoos. It's also a great place to spot bluebells in spring, as well as primroses, yellow pimpernel, wood anemone and dog violets. The wood is managed by The Forestry Commission and Friends of Hagg Wood



Hassacarr Pond/Terry Weston

## 10 Hassacarr Pond Nature

### Reserve Dunnington

SE 673 518 | YO195PB



Access via Hassacarr Lane

Disabled Access – Yes

45 and 45A

[www.facebook.com/hassacarr](http://www.facebook.com/hassacarr)

As the name suggests, much of this nature reserve is occupied by a large pond thought to date back to the last glaciation. The rest of the site comprises alder woodland, a meadow and other smaller ponds. The ponds are home to the great-crested newt, the largest newt found in the UK. The reserve is a great place to see a variety of dragonflies and other pond flora and fauna including the rare tubular water dropwort.

## 11 Hob Moor Local Nature Reserve

SE 5821 5042 | YO24 4PS



Access – via Green Lane, Acomb plus other adjacent streets

Disabled Access - Yes, with RADAR key

4, 16 and 24

[hobmoorfriends.files.wordpress.com/2015/03/hob-moor1.pdf](http://hobmoorfriends.files.wordpress.com/2015/03/hob-moor1.pdf)

Hob Moor is part of Micklegate Stray and is also one of York's four Local Nature Reserves. It has been used for grazing from the mediaeval period to the present day. Today it is still used

for grazing in the summer months but is also a valuable area for wildlife and flora, as well as a recreational area for dog-walkers, cyclists, pedestrians, birdwatchers and many others.



## 12 Knavesmire Grasslands

SE 590 493 | YO24 1QF



Access – via Cherry Lane off Tadcaster Road

Disabled Access - Yes

4, 12, 13, 21, 840 and 843

Knavesmire Grasslands runs along the western edge of York Racecourse. Paths running through this area make this a pleasant place for a walk and lead to Knavesmire Wood. Plants found in this area include gorse, bluebells, lady's smock, common knapweed and bracken.

## 13 Knavesmire Wood

SE 593 488 | YO24 1JT



Access – via Bracken Road or The National Cycle Network Route 65

Disabled Access – Yes



<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/woods/knavesmire-wood/>

Knavesmire Wood originated as an 18th century parkland planting, centred on an avenue of lime trees. Typical plants to found in the woodland include ivy, bramble, herb robert, wood dock, enchanter's nightshade, wild arum, male fern and broad buckler fern. This site is also important for woodland birds with typical species including great spotted woodpecker, tawny owl, chiffchaff, garden warbler. The wood is owned and managed by The Woodland Trust.

## 14 Mayfields Public Open Space

SE 586 503 | YO24 1EY



Access – via Nelson's Lane, off Tadcaster Road

Disabled Access – Yes

4, 12, 13, 840 and 843

[mayfieldcommunitytrust.com](http://mayfieldcommunitytrust.com)

Mayfields Public Open Space forms a link between part of Hob Moor and The Railway Pond but is worth a visit in its own right. The

site is managed by a keen group of volunteers. Flowers found on this site include bluebells, foxglove, common knapweed, meadowsweet, scabious and yellow-rattle. The site also attracts a variety of birds and butterflies including, robin, long-tailed tit, great tit, common blue, comma, gatekeeper and marbled white.

### 15 Millennium Green (Poppleton)

SE 5645523 | YO26 6LF



Access – via Church Lane,  
Nether Poppleton

Disabled Access – Yes



This site is one of two green spaces created to mark the start of the new millennium. The site is managed by local people who have planted a thriving orchard. In addition to the usual garden and farmland birds, the site attracts cuckoos, reed buntings and corn buntings. A pond on the site features some colourful flowers including yellow iris, great willowherb and greater spearwort. Deer, foxes and bats can also be seen here.



### 16 Millennium Green (Leeman Road)

SE 584524 | YO26 4XT



Access – via Garfield Terrace or  
Water End

Disabled Access - Yes



[leemanroadmillenniumgreen.org.uk](http://leemanroadmillenniumgreen.org.uk)

The Leeman Road Millennium Green is one of York's largest public green spaces, situated between the River Ouse and the railway line, just west of the City Centre. The site is managed by Leeman Road Millennium Green Trust who have planted trees, bulbs and wild flowers and encouraged wildlife by providing special habitats. Flowers growing on the green include purple loosestrife, meadowsweet, meadow cranesbill and great burnet.



## 17 Moorlands

SE 578 587 | YO32 2RE



Access – via Moor Lane

Disabled Access - Yes

Regulations – No dogs allowed



[www.ywt.org.uk/nature-reserves/moorlands-nature-reserve](http://www.ywt.org.uk/nature-reserves/moorlands-nature-reserve)

A particularly colourful nature reserve, this small woodland, part of the ancient Forest of Galtres, was planted with a collection of rhododendrons and azaleas in 1909 and is now ablaze with a succession of exotic blooms from March to the end of June accompanied by a carpet of snowdrop, bluebell, primrose and wood sorrel. The wealth of trees and flowering plants in turn attract many species of birds and mammals, including common pipistrelles and brown long-eared bats. The site also attracts a wide variety of birds including great-spotted woodpecker, nuthatch and several species of tits.

## 18 The Railway Pond and Reserve



SE 587 499 | YO24 1HD

Access via Nelson's Lane off Tadcaster Road or Aintree Court

Disabled Access – Yes



The Railway Pond is one of York's old

brick ponds. The pond is home to a good variety of large fish including carp, tench, bream, roach and rudd. Both yellow and white water lilies bloom in abundance in the summer months. Waterfowl including mallard and moorhen are frequent. The surrounding woodland is managed by volunteers to encourage a diversity of woodland flowers.

## 19 Rawcliffe Bar Country Park

SE 578 543 | YO30 5YA

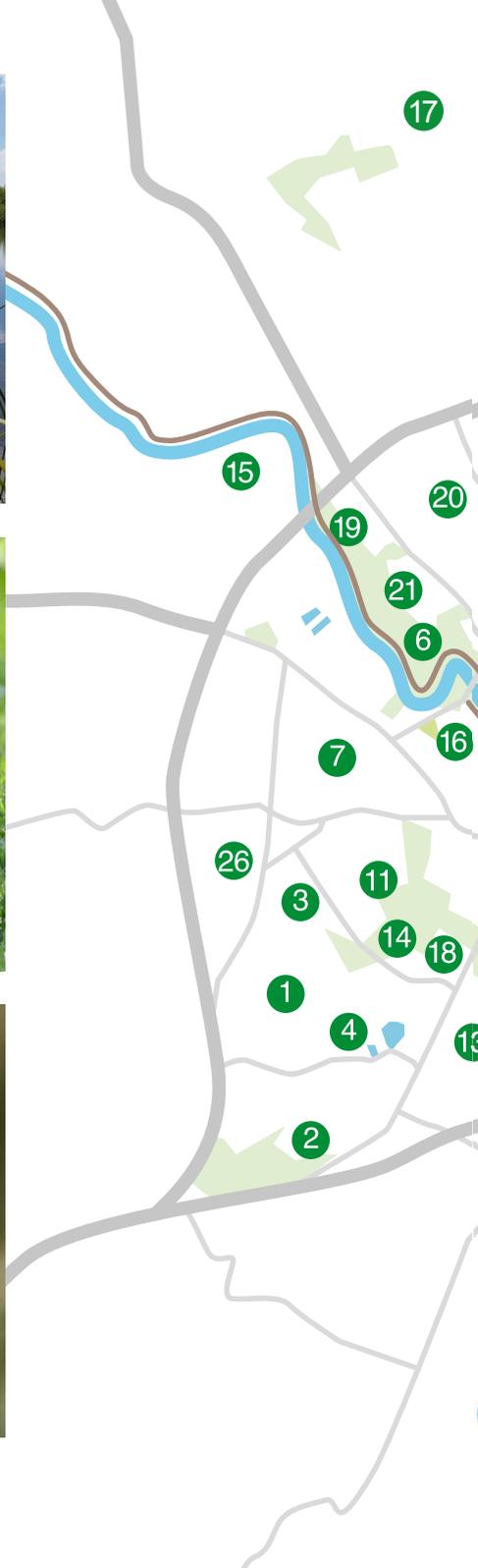


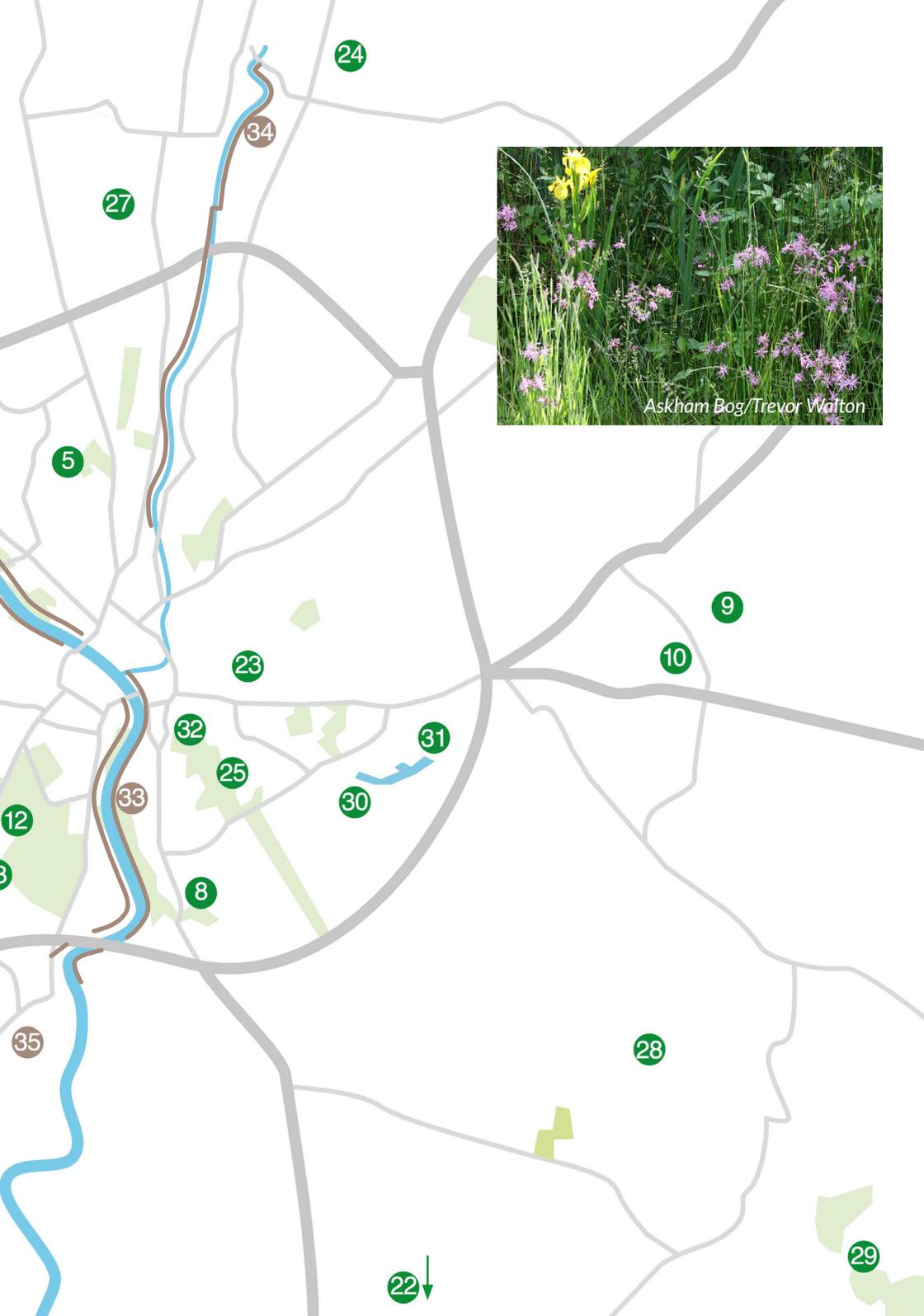
Access – via Rawcliffe Park and Ride site or Sustrans Cycle Route 65  
Disabled Access - Yes



See [www.york.gov.uk](http://www.york.gov.uk) – search for Rawcliffe Bar Country Park

Rawcliffe Country Park as we know it today was built to coincide with the construction of Rawcliffe Park and Ride site. The grounds were landscaped, woodlands planted, and a pond installed. The pond is home to several kinds of dragonfly and damselfly. A cornfield on the site is a haven for wild flowers, insects and birds such as the corn bunting. Mice and voles can be seen with a keen eye out and about and you might even spot a kestrel hunting them too! The site really has really improved local biodiversity and has also provided a space for in which local residents can enjoy nature.





Askham Bog/Trevor Walton

## 20 Rawcliffe Lake and Grasslands

SE 586 545 | YO30 4YL



Access – via surrounding streets including Oakdale Road and Greystoke Road

Disabled Access – Yes



See [www.york.gov.uk](http://www.york.gov.uk) – search for Rawcliffe Lake

This small balancing lake is situated in the heart of Rawcliffe Parish and is surrounded by grassland and planted woodland. The shoreline of the lake is dominated by reed sweet-grass, common reed, greater reed-mace and common spike-rush. Other colourful flowers include purple loosestrife, yellow flag and marsh marigold. The lake also has some bird interest, with small numbers of overwintering wildfowl and is one of the few sites for breeding great crested grebe. The surrounding planting also attracts migrants and overwintering finches such as redpoll and lesser redpoll.

## 21 Rawcliffe Meadows

SE 586 533 | YO30 5RX



Access – Sipton Road via track through Clifton Without and Rawcliffe allotments or Sustrans cycle route 65

Regulations – Keep to the cycle path

2, 19, 29, 30, 30X and 31X  

[www.rawcliffemeadows.wordpress.com](http://www.rawcliffemeadows.wordpress.com)

Rawcliffe Meadows are situated along the York-Beningbrough cycle track (NCN route 65) and cover 25 acres of the Clifton area floodplain. The site is home to the nationally rare and very beautiful tansy beetle which can be found on the site between May and July and again in September every year on its favoured plant, tansy. The site includes many habitats ranging from grassland with its meadowsweet and great burnet to wetlands with a surprising range of plants including fleabane, devil's bit scabious and strawberry clover.



## 22 Skipwith Common National Nature Reserve

SE 643 374 | YO19 6QL



Access - via King Rudding Lane, Riccall or Common Lane, Skipwith

Disabled Access - Yes



[publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/9529076](http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/9529076)

Skipwith NNR is not only one of the most important Sites of Special Scientific Interest in Yorkshire for its heathland, but also for its woodland,

ponds, reedbed and fen. These habitats support, insects, and birds, including the rare woodlark and, nightjar, as well as plants such as marsh St John's Wort. An ancient breed of longhorn cattle, wild and hardy Hebridean sheep and Exmoor ponies plus a herd of wild fallow and roe deer now graze the Common and help to prevent silver birch regeneration.

### 23 St Nicholas Fields Local Nature Reserve

SE 615 518 | YO10 3ST



Access – via Rawdon Avenue or Sustrans Cycle Route 658

Disabled access – Yes



[stnicks.org.uk](http://stnicks.org.uk)

Visitors to St Nicholas Fields may not immediately realize that this local nature reserve was formerly a rubbish tip. The area has since been transformed and is now a wildlife haven in the centre of York. Many birds live on or visit the nature reserve and just under 20 species of butterflies have been recorded. Tits, finches, thrushes, robins and wrens – nest on or regularly visit the site. Water voles are present, but it needs a mixture of luck and patience to see one. Over 200 species of trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants have been recorded on the reserve including cowslips, tansy, teasel, field scabious and yarrow.



Askham Bog/  
Trevor Walton

### 24 Strensall Common

SE 647 615 | YO32 5UZ/YO32 5YB



Access – via Brecks Lane

Disabled Access - Very limited

Regulations – Dogs must be on a lead



[www.ywt.org.uk/nature-reserves/strensall-common-nature-reserve](http://www.ywt.org.uk/nature-reserves/strensall-common-nature-reserve)

Strensall Common is a fabulous large heathland close to York where the pink heads and grey green leaves of cross-leaved heath intermingle with the purple spikes and green foliage of ling heather. Common lizards bask on the stumps of silver birch. The common is home to a host of insects including southern hawker dragonflies and green and purple hairstreak butterflies. Birds using the site include woodlark, green woodpecker, stonechat, coal and willow tits.



Skipwith Common/Trevor Walton

## 25 Walmgate Stray

SE 616 504 | YO10 5NG



Access - via Wentworth Way or Heslington Lane

Disabled Access - Yes

7, 25, 26 and 415

See [www.york.gov.uk](http://www.york.gov.uk) – search for Walmgate Stray

Walmgate Stray is a remnant of York's historic landscape. The stray is an area of marshy grassland grazed by cattle. Typical flowers found on the site include black knapweed, bird's-foot trefoil, meadow buttercup and lady's smock. The tall hawthorn hedges around the stray provide habitat for birds such as bullfinch, goldfinch, linnet and yellowhammer.



Fulford/Jane Chapman

## 26 Westfield Marsh (Fen)

SE 564 506 | YO26 5DR



Access via Grange Lane, Westfield

Disabled Access - Yes

1 and 5A

Westfield Marsh is a small wetland close to Westfield School in Acomb accessed via a children's

play area. The fen habitat here is associated with a peat-filled depression, apparently on the site of medieval fish ponds serving Acomb Grange. The marsh supports fen vegetation such as sharp-flowered rush, meadowsweet and brown sedge, whilst marsh marigold is also abundant. A flower-covered slope adjacent to the marsh attracts many colourful butterflies and other insects.

## 27 Westfield Wood

SE602569 | YO32 3EZ



Access - via Eastfield Avenue

Disabled Access - Yes

1 and 13

[www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/wood/5127/westfield-wood](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/wood/5127/westfield-wood)

Westfield Wood is one of The Woodland Trust's 'Woods on Your Doorstep' woodlands, created to commemorate the Millennium. Within the site are a number of old hedgerows and mature hedgerow trees, together with a small pond. Trees growing in this wood include sessile oak, ash, crack willow, field maple, whitebeam and rowan.



Wheldrake Ings/  
Trevor Walton

## 28 Wheldrake Woods

SE 660 470 | YO10 6NG



Access – via Broad Highway,  
Wheldrake

Disabled Access – Yes

18 plus along quiet lane

[www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/  
visiting-woods/wood/11322/  
wheldrake-woods](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/wood/11322/wheldrake-woods)

Wheldrake Woods is located close to the City of York. It is largely coniferous, growing Corsican pine and Scots pine as well as larch and some areas of spruce and fir. There are also a great number of individual trees and small stands of oak and birch, as well as a few coniferous rarities such as a giant sequoia. There are many informal footpaths throughout the wood. The woodland is locally designated as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation for the remnant heathland habitat found here.

## 29 Wheldrake Ings

SE 690 447 | YO19 6AX



Access – via Church Lane, Wheldrake

Disabled access - No

Regulations – No dogs allowed

18

[www.ywt.org.uk/nature-reserves/  
wheldrake-ings-nature-reserve](http://www.ywt.org.uk/nature-reserves/wheldrake-ings-nature-reserve)

Recognised as an internationally important site for wetland birds,

Wheldrake Ings is part of a complex of traditionally managed floodplain meadows which during times of flood can attract flocks of thousands of waterfowl. In June, the meadows are ablaze with colour and up to 35 species of flowering plant can be found per square metre. Plants growing in the meadows include great burnet, common knapweed, meadowsweet, meadow vetchling and cuckoo flower.



Askham Bog/  
Trevor Walton

## 30 University of York Heslington East

SE 630 506 | YO10 5LA/YO10 5GE



Access – via Field Lane

Disabled Access – Yes

66A

[yorkbirding.org.uk/sites/  
heslington-east](http://yorkbirding.org.uk/sites/heslington-east)

This extension to the University of York is a developing landscape. Before 2009 it was arable farmland. A large lake was excavated and the surrounding area was sown with wildflowers to create colourful meadows. 50,000 trees were also planted across the site. The lake attracts a wide variety of waterfowl

including pochard, grey herons, gulls and little grebes. The meadows attract insects such as common blue and southern brown argus butterflies. Dragonflies and damselflies are becoming more abundant as the lake matures.

### 31 University of York - Heslington West

SE 623 505 | YO10 5DD



Access – via University Road

Disabled Access – Yes

45, 46, 66 and 66A

[yorkbirding.org.uk/sites/heslington-west](http://yorkbirding.org.uk/sites/heslington-west)

The main wildlife feature of the university is a large lake which attracts a variety of waterfowl and has a large population of coarse fish. Other parts of the campus are managed as wildflower meadows, marshy ditches and other habitats including woodland. Birds found on the lake include snow and barnacle geese, great crested grebes and pochards. Parts of the campus have developed as meadows with banks of ox-eye daisy. Bee and spotted orchids can also be found on the campus.



Lindsey Bowes



Skipwith Common/  
Trevor Walton

### 32 York Cemetery

SE 610 509 | YO10 5AJ



Access – via Cemetery Road

Disabled Access – Yes

7, 36 and 415

[yorkcemetery.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/York-Cemetery-Butterfly-Trail-Dec-2017.pdf](http://yorkcemetery.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/York-Cemetery-Butterfly-Trail-Dec-2017.pdf)

[yorkcemetery.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/York-Cemetery-Nature-Trail-Dec-2017.pdf](http://yorkcemetery.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/York-Cemetery-Nature-Trail-Dec-2017.pdf)

York Cemetery is one of only two privately owned Victorian Cemeteries in the country. Whilst still a working cemetery, the site is actively managed to encourage wildlife and has a butterfly walk, woodland glades and many other features attractive to wildlife. Foxes can often be seen roaming the grounds. A number of wildlife events are organized during the year including bat nights, butterfly walks and moth nights.

### 33 The River Ouse



Access – multiple access points in city centre

Disabled Access – Partially Accessible Regulations - Keep to public footpath or Sustrans Cycle Route 65



See [Canalrivertrust.org.uk](http://Canalrivertrust.org.uk) – search for River Ouse

The River Ouse is bounded by public footpaths leading north out of York to Beningbrough Hall or heading south to Bishopthorpe and beyond. The banks of the river are home to the rare tansy beetle, which is now only to be found in the vicinity of York. Otters are known to be present. A variety of bats have breeding roosts under Clifton Bridge. Birds found along the river include kingfisher, sand martins, cormorant and goosander.

### 34 The River Foss

SE 615 580 to SE 609 526  
YO32 2SJ to YO31 8RA



Access – multiple access points  
Disabled Access – Partially accessible



[www.riverfossociety.co.uk](http://www.riverfossociety.co.uk)

The River Foss supports a wide variety of wildlife as it winds from its rural source to its urban confluence with the Ouse in York.

The 28 miles of river are home to a good range of waterbirds including kingfisher, little egret, heron, mandarin duck, little grebe and mute swan. Mammals found along the river include otters, mink and water voles. A good range of aquatic plants can be seen including yellow flag, arrowhead, water plantain and yellow water lily.

### 35 York to Selby Cycle Path

SE 591474 | YO23 2RY



Access – via Appleton Court, Bishopthorpe or Sustrans cycle route 65/Trans Pennine Trail  
Disabled Access – Yes



[www.sustrans.org.uk/ncn/map/route/york-to-selby](http://www.sustrans.org.uk/ncn/map/route/york-to-selby)

This great cycle and walking route takes you on a mainly traffic free path through the Vale of York to Riccall and then onwards to Selby. The route uses the trackbed of the old East Coast Mainline railway. A wide variety of flowers grow along the verges of the path including ox-eye daisy, common knapweed, and birds-foot trefoil. Bee orchids can also be found in June. The flowers attract butterflies including common blue, gatekeeper and speckled wood. Birds seen along the route include whitethroat, blackcap and yellowhammer.

# The Countryside Code

Follow the Countryside Code to get the best enjoyment and protect the countryside now and for future generations.

## Respect other people

- Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors
- Leave gates and property as you find them and follow paths unless wider access is available

## Protect the natural environment

- Leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under effective control

## Enjoy the outdoors

- Plan and be prepared
- Follow advice and local signs

# Conservation organisations

Forestry Commission

<https://www.forestry.gov.uk/>

St Nicks

<https://stnicks.org.uk>

Sustrans

<https://www.sustrans.org.uk/>

The Woodland Trust

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/>

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

<http://www.ywt.org.uk/>

York Natural Environment Trust

<https://yorknet.wordpress.com/>

Askham Bog/Trevor Walton



# Friends groups

Dunnington Conservation Group  
<https://en-gb.facebook.com/hassacarr>

Friends of Clifton Backies  
[www.cliftonbackies.org.uk](http://www.cliftonbackies.org.uk)

Friends of Hagg Wood  
[www.fohw.org.uk](http://www.fohw.org.uk)

Friends of Hob Moor  
[www.fohm.org.uk](http://www.fohm.org.uk)

Mayfields Community Trust  
<https://mayfieldcommunitytrust.com>

Sustrans volunteers  
<https://www.sustrans.org.uk/volunteer>

Friends of Rawcliffe Meadows  
<https://rawcliffemeadows.wordpress.com/about/about-us>

The River Foss Society  
[www.riverfossociety.co.uk](http://www.riverfossociety.co.uk)



# Volunteering opportunities

Volunteer at St Nicks  
<https://stnicks.org.uk>

York Cemetery volunteers  
<http://yorkcemetery.org.uk/volunteers.html>

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust volunteers  
[www.ywt.org.uk/volunteer](http://www.ywt.org.uk/volunteer)

Woodland Trust volunteers  
<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/support-us/act/volunteer-with-us/>

The Conservation Volunteers  
[www.tcv.org.uk/yorkshire/tcv-york](http://www.tcv.org.uk/yorkshire/tcv-york)

York Greenways  
[www.yorkgreenways.org](http://www.yorkgreenways.org)

Growing Green Spaces  
[www.growinggreenspaces.co.uk](http://www.growinggreenspaces.co.uk)

## References

City of York Biodiversity Audit 2010: A review of the biodiversity interest and sites of nature conservation importance in York

City of York Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2017

York's Green Places: an explorer's guide to over forty parks, nature reserves and hidden green spaces Sessions Books 2006.

# Why sustainable travel matters for our wildlife

York's wildlife sites are under threat and need our help. By travelling sustainably we can help to reduce the threats to our natural heritage.

By choosing to visit wildlife sites by bus, car-sharing, bicycle or on foot you can:

Reduce air pollution which harms wildlife as well as people.

Reduce the risk of wildlife sites being damaged by more frequent floods, droughts and heatwaves.

Reduce the noise caused by traffic. Many species of wildlife avoid noisy roads.

Reduce the number of animals killed on our roads. Millions of birds are killed every year after colliding with cars.



## A free day out

All sites listed in this guide are free to visit.



### Photo-credits

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