

# Finding your way around Old Hall Marshes



THE TRAILS

**Please note:** if walking with dogs, please keep them on a lead.

## The Short Walk

This three-mile circular walk leads you through the range of habitats at the reserve. In summer, you might see nesting avocets and common terns, while in winter, scan the semi-improved grassland to catch a glimpse of overwintering dark-bellied brent geese. All year round, you'll see wading birds, ducks, geese and swans on Bale field.

## The Long Walk

Follow this six-mile trail along the sea wall surrounding the reserve and you'll get a real feel for Old Hall Marshes. Stop off at the viewing screens at Pennyhole Fleet and Pennyhole Bottom for close encounters with a wonderful range of ducks, geese and swans all year round. From the sea wall, you're almost guaranteed views of our resident marsh harriers flying over the reedbeds.

This is a natural site. The paths and trails are unsuitable for pushchairs and wheelchairs.



Cows graze the marsh and keep the grass short, so it's great habitat for wading birds.



**Did you know?**  
Because the grazing marsh has only ever been grazed, and never farmed, it retains the structure of the saltmarsh.

In winter, you can see up to 3,500 dark-bellied brent geese feeding on the fields.

This is the best place on the Short Walk to look for migrating wading birds.

Along the Long Walk, enjoy the beautiful view across the reserve.

In spring, watch for marsh harriers "dancing" in the sky to attract mates.

Look for avocets and common terns in summer; they often breed here.

Listen carefully for the "ping ping" of bearded tits.

**Did you know?**  
Archaeology on site shows that salt was extracted from Old Hall Marshes during Roman times.

If you're lucky, you might spy a water vole on the borrow dyke system.

**Key:**

- Water
- Grazing marsh
- Semi-improved grassland
- Reedbed
- Saltmarsh
- Mudflats
- Viewing screen
- Permissive footpath
- Car park



Look out for avocets' distinctive beaks. They are shaped like sickles to help scoop up food.