

## **Suggested route round Hes East**

If you come by car the only parking is in front of Heslington Church. You cannot park on the site itself. The 66 and 66a buses from York stop at Hes Hall.

My usual route is:

Enter at the very top by Lakeside Way (the road by the traffic lights just after the church, heading into the campus). Don't go down Lakeside Way itself, take the field path between the Deramore School on your right and the newly planted wooded hill on your left.

Walk all the way down the path and follow it as it bears left to emerge at a (locked) hide overlooking the South West Lagoon.

Then head down along the fence to the main lake, and turn left along the lake shore, heading back on yourself.

Walk all along the shore, go round the bushes and lagoon at the top of the lake and join Lakeside Way, cross over the it and have a good look at the Top Lagoon from its western shore.

Then return to the Main Lake and walk south along the shore. Keep an eye on whatever is on the water and move away from the edge when you need to to avoid disturbance.

Keep along the lake shore as it bears left, to emerge eventually at a bus-stop on Lakeside Way.

Re-join the lake shore after the bus-stop, and keep walking and birding until you end up back on Lakeside Way in front of the main buildings and then another bus-stop.

Go round that bus stop on the road and then head back right to the lake shore again and keep going until you reach the large old willow tree in the distance, where again you can re-join the road.

There is no public access to the lake shore beyond the willow tree (the far eastern corner of the lake), but there is no need to – it's entirely visible from the willow tree.

From where you started that's about a mile.

What I do next depends on the weather and time of the year. Sometimes I just make my way back on the same route, other times I head over to the Sport Village in the distance, either on the road, checking the rough ground on your left, and the large open area on your right, or sometimes I go into the rough (at time very wet) ground on the left and see what's there.

Then I often come back over Kimberlow Hill, which you can get on to from the roundabout just above the Sport Village – there's an obvious field path; go up to the top of the hill and then turn left along the ridge, heading back to Heslington. It gives great views over the Vale of York to the south and in winter hosts nice finch flocks, M'ipits etc. and its not a bad spot for watching raptors.

John Lawton July 2018