

SCALING DAM RESERVOIR WALK

Scaling Dam Reservoir is located within the North York Moors National Park. The western end of the reservoir site has been designated a nature reserve and part of this is also within the North York Moors Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Although there is no public access within the nature reserve we have developed an excellent circular walk that follows the boundary of the nature reserve and the reservoir.

In addition to the abundant bird life keep an eye out for other wildlife including brown hare, roe deer, stoat, weasel and common shrew as well as adder and common lizard.

The circular walk begins from the sailing club car park (A), as a grassy path which goes through a small area of woodland and onto a track known as Boghouse Lane, which is named after Bog House Farm. Going in an anti-clockwise direction this track skirts the edge of the nature reserve with boardwalks crossing particularly boggy areas and a bridge taking you over the main inlet stream to the reservoir (look out for frogspawn from the bridge in the springtime).

The path then takes you onto the moor, still skirting the edge of the nature reserve and a stile eventually leads you back towards the reservoir, adjacent to conifer and broadleaved woodland. The rest of the path stays close to the reservoir going through areas of heather, species rich grassland and gorse.

The heather is not burnt or grazed allowing it to develop to maturity unlike areas of the surrounding moorland that are regularly burnt as part of a management regime for grouse shooting.

The walk continues past a second car park and along the dam embankment back to the starting point. There are toilets at the sailing club car park and the fishing lodge near this car park also provides refreshments and a seating area.

Remember to visit the bird hide close to the sailing club which offers a good vantage point for bird watching all year round. Scaling Dam is important for wintering wildfowl and from September - October onwards the reservoir has over wintering coot, pochard and mallard. In spring and autumn passage migrant and scarce wildfowl can also be seen including shoveler, gadwall, goosander and osprey.

Parking: Car parks at either end of the reservoir.

Refreshments/facilities: Mobile catering facility at eastern end and information centre/shop at western end.

Distance: 4.6km – allow 1.5 to 2 hours.

