

## Reserve Habitats

1

### Hay Bridge Moss

Part of the Rusland Valley Mosses, it is a lowland raised peat bog, which formed in a shallow lake. Peat forms in the waterlogged conditions. Distinct plant communities grow in these environments.

2

### Fen - Lagg (& Withies)

Partially flooded, it is a buffer zone around raised bog and is an ecological zone in its own right. It acts as a sort of filter, preventing nutrients from entering the bog, as well as de-acidifying the water that runs from it.

3

### River Bank

Heavily silted, the river bed is an ideal habitat for eels, though sadly declining. The banks, in places overgrown with vegetation, provide habitats for otter, feeding kingfisher and colonies of beautiful demoiselle which all benefit from the clean, clear water.

4

### Pastures, Meadows & Hedgerows

Mixed hedgerows are a valuable food source for birds in winter. They also provide shelter and nest sites, and are browsed by deer. On the reserve, they are managed to provide wildlife corridors between different areas of woodland and the mosses.

5

### Woodland

The woodlands on the reserve are a mixture of ancient broadleaves and coppice wood mainly oak, birch, beech, lime, ash, yew and hazel with alder in the wetter areas.

6

### Flushes

Characterised by marshy areas, flushes are associated with water moving both through the soil and springs with localised upwelling of water.

7

### Tarns

Both Black Beck and White Moss tarns were originally man-made, but now provide an ideal habitat for over-wintering wildfowl and resident moorhen, coot and little grebe. The islands in both tarns provide safe nesting sites. Black Beck tarn especially is an important breeding site for frogs, toads and newts. Both tarns are ideal for dragonflies and a myriad of water insects and are favoured hunting areas for several species of bat.

8

### Woodland Pasture

Effectively grazed, sparse woodland, which gives plenty of open sunny areas will encourage wildflowers to thrive. Bracken and brambles are controlled but not eradicated, providing an ideal habitat for fritillary butterflies and basking areas for adders and grass snakes.

## Hay Bridge Nature Reserve

Because it is privately owned, access to the Reserve is limited to Members of the Hay Bridge Nature Reserve Society, or by arrangement with the Warden.

- **HOURS OF ACCESS:** Members may visit the reserve at any time during hours of daylight (6am to 9pm in the summer) without prior arrangement and are welcome to bring their friends.
- **PLEASE** keep to the marked walks shown on the map.
- **CARS:** Please leave your car in the Members' Car Park, displaying your car park ticket on the dashboard.
- **CHILDREN:** For safety reasons, and to ensure minimum disturbance to wildlife etc., children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.
- **DOGS:** Well behaved dogs are allowed on the Reserve, but they must be kept on a short lead at all times. Please clear up and take away any dog mess.
- **LITTER:** Please take your litter home if possible, or use the bin provided in the Car Park or the Members' Area.
- **THE STUDY CENTRE:** Originally a traditional Lakeland Stone Barn, the Study Centre houses information, field guides, species lists and exhibits relevant to Hay Bridge, and is for use by visiting schools, groups and Society Members.  
The Study Centre is usually open when the Warden is on site.
- **MEMBERS' FACILITIES:** These are situated on the lower side of the building (the last door on the right at the far end of the lower terrace). There are two toilets, including one for wheelchair users, and hand washing facilities. There is also a rest area, with kettle, tea and coffee etc., available for Members' use.
- **EMERGENCIES:** When the Warden is on site the office and Study Centre telephones are available for emergency use and there are First Aid Kits in the rest area and the Study Centre. The nearest Public Telephone is in Bouth village. Emergency information is displayed just inside the Members' Area door.

### Membership Enquiries:

[www.haybridgereserve.org.uk](http://www.haybridgereserve.org.uk) or email [membership@haybridgereserve.org.uk](mailto:membership@haybridgereserve.org.uk) or call 01229 861727

# Hay Bridge Nature Reserve

Explore the 220 acres of the Reserve and discover the diverse range of habitats, the wildlife, flora and fauna.



Situated in the heart of the Rusland Valley, between Windermere and Coniston in the Lake District, Hay Bridge Nature Reserve is a special place.

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

Hay Bridge Nature Reserve, Low Hay Bridge, Bouth, Ulverston, Cumbria LA12 8JG Tel: 01229 861727

# Map of the Reserve

1. Hay Bridge Moss
2. Fen - Lagg (& Withies)
3. River Bank
4. Pastures, Meadows & Hedgerows
5. Woodland
6. Flushes
7. Tarns
8. Woodland Pasture



1

2

3

4

5

8

7

6

Hay Bridge Moss

Rusland Pool

Hay Bridge Pool Meadow

The Withies

Fogmire

Sammyfield

Coppice Wood Hide

Little Lands

Byron's Hide

Rusland Runner

Low Hay Bridge Study Centre

Woody Newlands

Parrock

High Hay Bridge

Hay Bridge Wood

Crooked Dale

Crooked Dale Hide

Rake Head Car Park

Low Moor Close

High Moor Close

Great Assey Syke

Limed Assey Syke

White Moss Tarn

White Moss

Harold's Hide

Black Beck Tarn

Yins

Hulleter Scar

Hulleter Pasture

Crooks Pastures

Entrance

To Bouth

To Hulleter

**Key**

- View Point - Tissie Fook's memorial stone
- Potash Pit
- Charcoal Burner's Hut
- Hides
- Car Park
- Reserve Footpath
- Public Footpath
- No Access - Private & Sanctuary Areas

Scale: 500m