# Boldon Flats Local Wildlife Site

To preserve this sensitive site and to avoid disturbing the sensitive ground-nesting birds there is no public access. Below are several alternative areas of open greenspace within 1km ideal for walking and wildlife spotting.

**North Boldon Fields** is a large area of open green space that can be accessed by walking along the footpath to the north of the railway line. Just to the south of this is **Boldon Park** with amenity playing fields and a play area. This park can be accessed from The Hawthorns. Also within a short walk and adjacent to the Metro Station is a small area of open greenspace.

For wildlife enthusiasts, off Tileshed Lane is **Tilesheds Nature Reserve**, created in the 1990s by the excavation of a pond and marsh and the planting of thousands of native trees and shrubs. The pond is a valuable resource for dragonflies, frogs, toads and newts.

As well as these sites there are networks of footpaths and bridleways providing a variety of walking routes to help you explore the local area.

## Why is Boldon Flats so special?

Boldon Flats contain unique grassland habitats subject to seasonal flooding. The wildflower grasslands, networks of drainage ditches, channels and a pond provide habitats for a variety of amphibians, aquatic mammals and importantly, wading birds.

In the past a sluice gate at the eastern end of the site was controlled to create an annual winter flood. Nowadays, water levels are dictated by site drainage often resulting in a sizable temporary lake on the north side of Moor Lane creating a haven for waterfowl and wading birds.

Some wildfowl use the site as their summer breeding and over-wintering grounds. During the summer, reed bunting, snipe and occasionally water rail breed on site. The winter floods attract large numbers of waders including lapwing, curlew and redshank, while wigeon and teal along with several other species of ducks, geese and gulls frequent the site. The site is also valuable during the late summer, autumn and spring periods for waders such as little ringed plover, black-tailed godwit and ruff.










1. Boldon Flats
2. North Boldon Fields
3. Tile Sheds Nature Reserve
4. Footpath/bridleway leading north from Boldon Lane
5. Bridleway adjacent to metro line running between Whitburn Road and Tile Shed Lane
6. Amenity space adjacent to metro station
7. Boldon Park

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