

# Crabtree Ponds Local Nature Reserve

## Crabtree Ponds & Salmon Pastures Nature Reserves



Sheffield & Rotherham

As the name might suggest, Crabtree Ponds Nature Reserve features a large pond originally constructed as an ornamental pond for Crabtree Lodge in the 19th Century. What may be slightly more surprising is its location – in the heart of a densely populated area of Sheffield.

As an urban nature reserve, close to several primary schools, Crabtree Ponds is the perfect place for children to learn about the importance of the pond habitat to many different wildlife species.

Links to the nearby Roe Woods and Osgathorpe Park provide plenty of opportunities for walking in the area, as well as providing an extended habitat for wildlife. Make sure to keep your eyes peeled around dusk, as pipistrelle, Leisler and Daubenton bats are all known to roost nearby and feed over Crabtree Ponds.

A variety of fish can be found in the pond including rudd, roach, perch, crucian carp, sticklebacks, and even eels! The pond also supports several species of local biodiversity importance – hawker dragonflies, smooth and palmate newts, frogs, and toads – which would otherwise be absent from this area of Sheffield.

Crabtree Ponds is more than just a pond, however. The dense shrub layer provides an ideal habitat for fungi – dark and damp – with 27 different species recorded on site. The deadwood that fungi thrive on also provides shelter for hedgehogs, and is home to many different insects.

The woodland also has its own host of residents, with the familiar sound of woodpeckers a common feature of Crabtree Ponds. The installation

of bird boxes has further increased the number of species nesting on site, with two scarce species – the song thrush and bullfinch – recorded on the reserve.

As the focus of community participation, the Reserve Advisory Group (RAG) is open to anyone who wishes to contribute to the local management of the reserve. If you are interested in learning more or getting involved, please get in touch.

Common toad



Drawing by pupil from Owlter Brook Nursery and Infant School

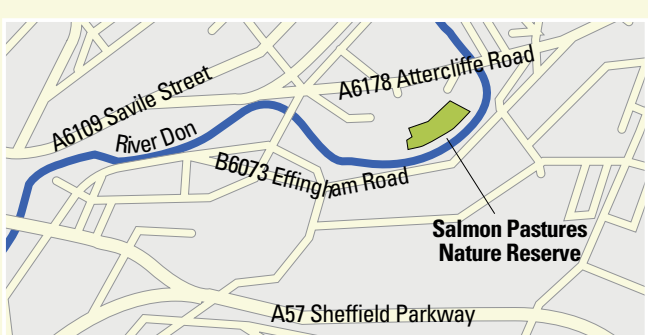
## How to get there

For up-to-date bus times, call Traveline on 01709 51 51 51, or visit [www.travelsouthyorkshire.com](http://www.travelsouthyorkshire.com). Both reserves are close to tram and bus routes, and there is some parking on surrounding streets. These two nature reserves are wheelchair accessible.

**Crabtree Ponds** (S5 7AQ) is between Herries Road and Barnsley Road, just south of the Northern General Hospital. The main entrance to the reserve is on the corner of Herries Road and Crabtree Close.



**Salmon Pastures** (S9 3QA) can be accessed from either end of Warren Street, off Attercliffe Road (A6178), or on foot via the Five Weirs Walk.



Crabtree Ponds and Salmon Pastures Nature Reserves are managed by The Wildlife Trust for Sheffield & Rotherham.

For more information about Sheffield Wildlife Trust or to join as a member please contact us at:  
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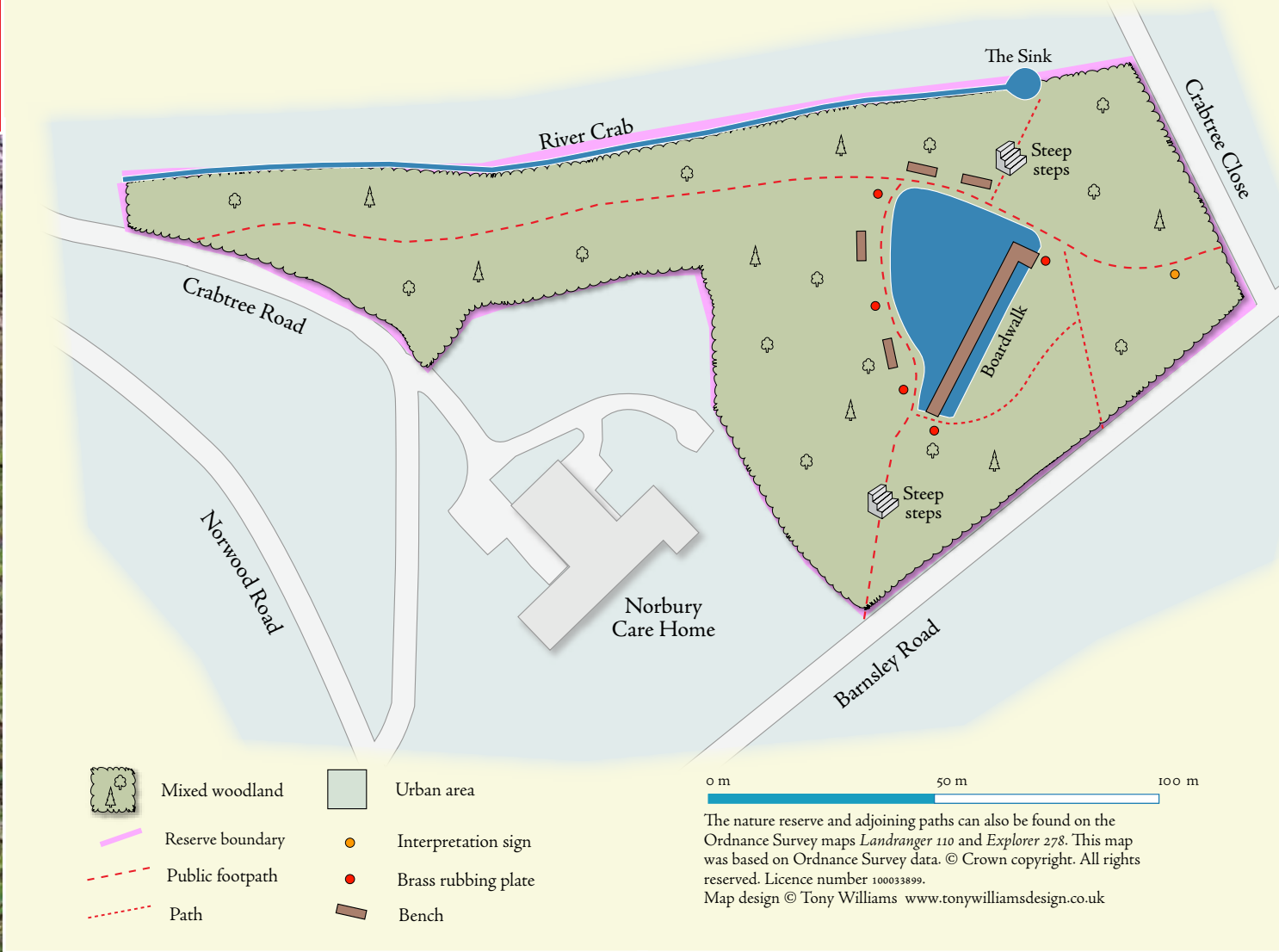
The Wildlife Trust for Sheffield & Rotherham is part of a national association of 47 local Wildlife Trusts, which work to protect wildlife in town and country.

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# Crabtree Ponds Nature Reserve



Palmate newt



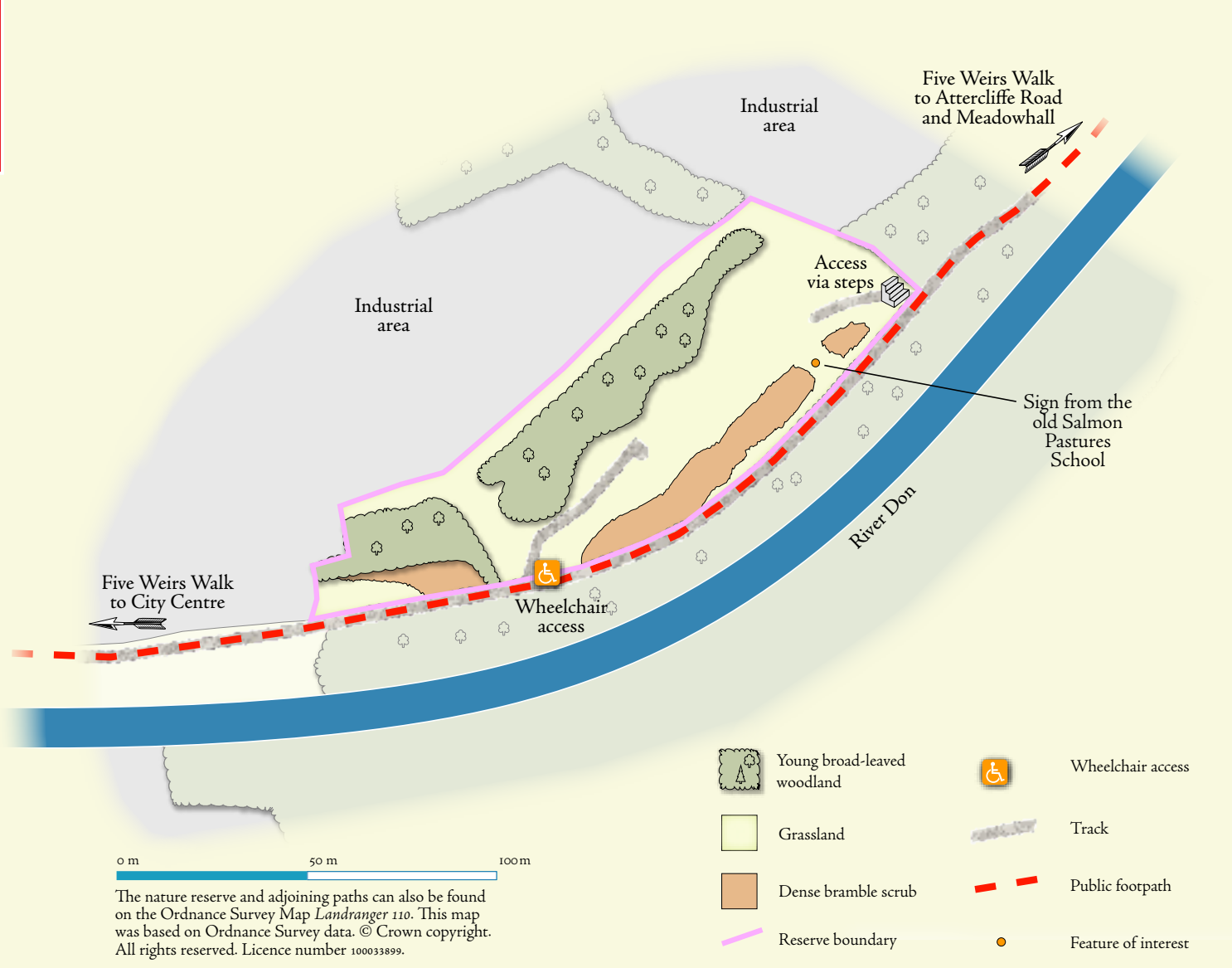
# Salmon Pastures Local Nature Reserve

Covering a mere half hectare along the north bank of the River Don, Salmon Pastures is the smallest nature reserve managed by the Sheffield Wildlife Trust, but by no means the least important. As part of a recognised green corridor, with links to other wildlife havens along the river, this small reserve is a perfect example of the “living landscapes” vision.

As well as facilitating the movement of wildlife around the area, the connections between Salmon Pastures, the Five Weirs Walk, and the Trans Pennine Trail offer lots of opportunities for walkers and cyclists. Anglers, canoeists and birdwatchers also frequent this section of the River Don. Following well-established paths and trails, it is possible to continue up to other nature reserves, including Blackburn Meadows and Centenary Riverside, in Rotherham.

Walking along the Five Weirs Walk, you might notice some clues to the history of the nature reserve in the carved benches and an entrance arch incorporating its namesake fish.

During the late 19th and 20th centuries, the Lower Don Valley was heavily industrialised, and the area which Salmon Pastures now occupies was a slagheap for industrial waste. Reclaimed and landscaped in the late 1960s, the area was then left to regenerate naturally until management work began in 1998 to remove a number of trees and conserve the open grassland.



The large amount of cinder left in the area resulted in the creation of an acid heath, and the unusual ecology of this nature reserve is now maintained as a nutrient-poor urban common, comprising three main habitats: woodland and scrub, acid grassland, and heather. Several of the species associated with these habitats are of local and national importance, including several eye-catching birds. It’s worth spending a moment to see if you

can spot a striking kingfisher flitting over the river, or some bullfinches and goldfinches amongst the trees.

The heathland also supports a unique community of invertebrates, which includes many different hoverflies and dragonflies, as well as butterflies and moths which thrive on the nectar from the variety of wildflowers present.