



# Washburn Valley Birds Walk, Lindley Reservoir



**Nidderdale**  
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

## Introduction

Wander through woodland, alongside river banks, and admire views of the reservoir and across the valley. Historically, this walk is very interesting with a packhorse bridge, Dob Park and a monks' trail. Secluded/tucked away from it all but easily accessible. This quiet walk is good at anytime of the year.

## Map

OS Explorer 297:  
Lower Wharfedale  
& Washburn Valley

## Distance/Time

6.5 miles (10.5km)  
3 hours

## Starting Point

Lindley Wood Reservoir Dam (SE 209498).

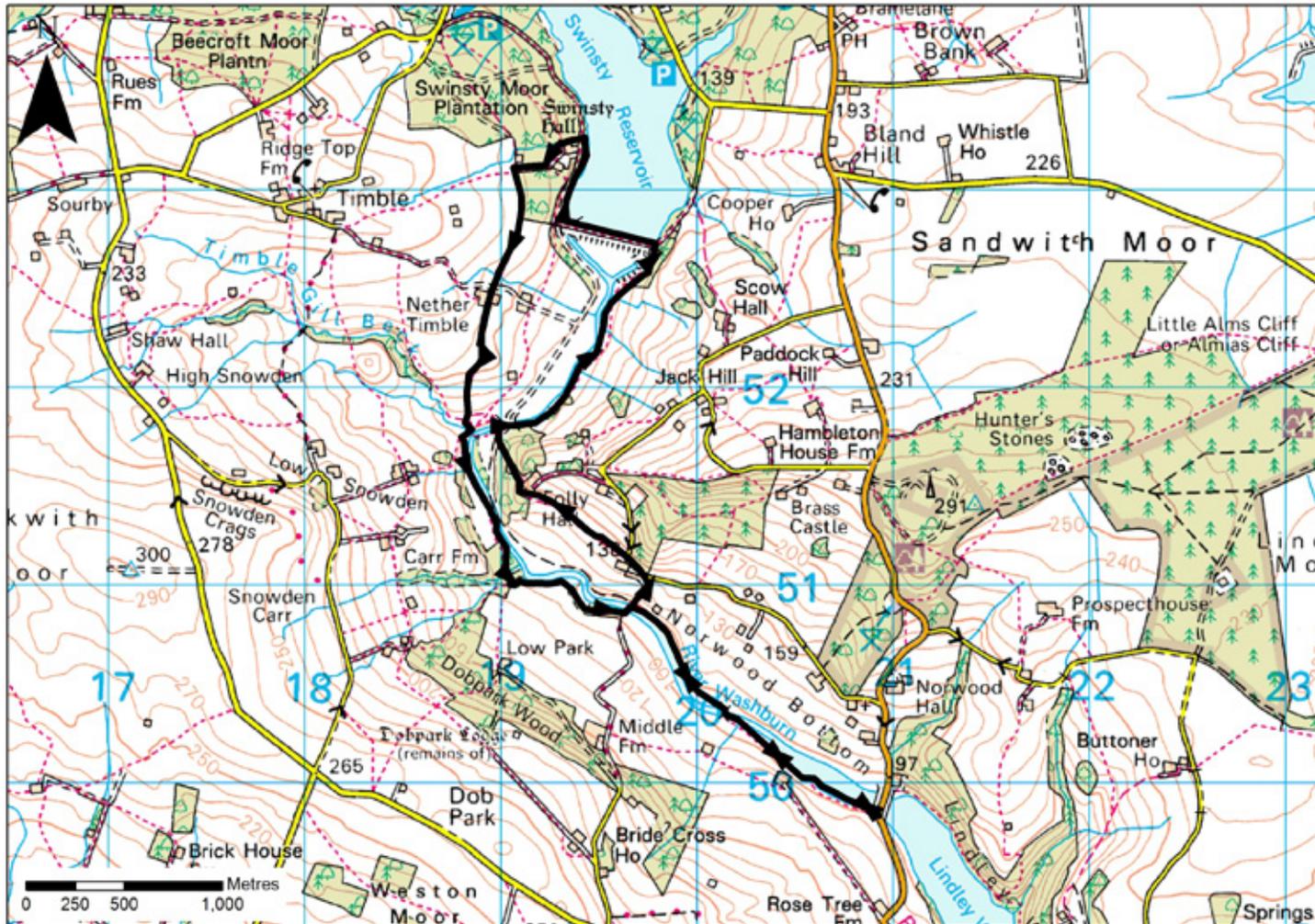
## Terrain

This is a moderate route through woodland, farmland and along river banks. There are some stiles and gates. Footpaths are generally good but some areas can be muddy so walking boots are recommended. Suitable for adults and children.

## Useful Information

Please park considerately at the lay-by by the reservoir dam bridge.

There are no refreshments/toilets on this route.



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## The Route

At the top end of Lindley Wood Reservoir, when the water in the reservoir is low, short, tussocky grass is good for wading birds, geese and heron.

The footpath, adjacent to the river at this point, is lined with alder and oak. This pleasant woodland habitat provides you with a good chance to see redstart and the (ever-decreasing) spotted flycatcher.

As you approach Dob Park Bridge, look out for the kingfisher in the later summer and autumn, and for bullfinch and great spotted woodpecker.

Walking past Folly Hall Wood look out for pied flycatcher and redstart. Heading back down towards the river bottom you stand a good chance of seeing grey wagtail and siskin.

As you move away from the river and walk towards Folly Hall you pass through open fields with vistas of the valley. Be on the lookout for buzzard which can regularly be seen (especially over the river towards Dob Park Wood). The field boundaries have many veteran trees and are a stronghold for green woodpecker.

You are now following the River Washburn once more upstream towards the dam. The tree-lined river

banks provide an ideal habitat for mistle thrush and tree creeper.

As you approach the dam the rough grass is good for stonechat, especially in the autumn and winter.

On the dam head you have excellent views across the reservoir so keep a lookout for waterfowl (tufted duck, pochard) on the water. In winter there is a huge roost of common gulls and you may also see great crested grebe. Wagtails frequent the dam wall.

As you leave the dam and pass into woodland there is a good chance of seeing goldcrest and great spotted woodpecker.

Emerging from the woodlands you'll walk down a walled lane and into open fields. In the late spring you can expect to see breeding curlew, but look out for lapwing and redshank too.

Once over the packhorse bridge and back on the riverside watch for long-tailed and coal tits.