

Working in partnership

ESSEX & SUFFOLK WATER *living water*

THE WILDLIFE TRUSTS
ESSEX Wildlife Trust

Abberton Reservoir Nature Reserve & Visitor Centre

Abberton Reservoir a wetland site of international importance for wildfowl.

Visitor Centre and nature reserve with easy access for all.

Tea room serving locally sourced bacon rolls; paninis; handmade soup; sandwiches & cakes

Events for children & adults; gift shop; optical equipment; nature trails; bird hides & wild play area

Open daily
closed Christmas Day and Boxing Day

Tel: 01206 738172
Email: abberton@essexwt.org.uk
Website: www.essexwt.org.uk

Follow us

Registered Charity No 210065 Protecting Wildlife for the Future and for the People of Essex

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Abberton Reservoir

Walks and Countryside Access Around

For up to date information on bus services to the reservoir please visit www.travelinesoutheast.org.uk or telephone Hedingham Buses on 01206 769778.



www.en-form.org.uk/abberton

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PROJECT PART-FINANCED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION
European Regional Development Fund
Investing in your future

Welcome to Abberton Reservoir

Abberton Reservoir helps supply drinking water to a large part of Essex. Owned and operated by Essex & Suffolk Water, the reservoir is a vital part of the water network, supplying top quality drinking water to 1.5million customers.

The reservoir was constructed in the late 1930's on the course of Layer Brook, which runs into the River Stour. Abberton Reservoir is mainly filled by water from the River Stour on the Essex/Suffolk county border. Water is abstracted from three points on the river and is transferred to the reservoir through underground pipelines.

Water stored in the reservoir is pumped up to the water treatment works in Layer-de-la-Haye to be cleaned so that it is clean, clear and tastes good before entering the drinking water distribution network to customers' homes.

As well as being critical for water supply, Abberton Reservoir is also of international importance for the waterfowl that use the site. Due to its significance it is designated a Ramsar and Special Protection Area.

During the 1990's, it was recognised that additional water resources would be required in the Essex area to meet the anticipated increase in demand, resulting from population growth in the driest part of the UK. After many years of careful planning and consultation, work began to increase the capacity of Abberton Reservoir by 58% in 2010 to ensure water could continue to be supplied for generations to come.

This work completed in 2013 and the reservoir can now store 41 million litres of water. This project raised the top water level from 3.2metres and increased the surface area by 40% to 6.6km².

Importantly, the project also improved the reservoir for the waterfowl that it is such a critical home for. Over 200ha of areas of shallow water habitat has been created that the waterfowl are now enjoying.

Essex & Suffolk Water has also put in 10km of new permissive rights of way in the vicinity of the reservoir. Hopefully while you are exploring the area today, you will get to enjoy some of these new permissive access routes.

Wigborough Traditional Meats

We sell beef, pork, lamb, mutton and eggs only from our own animals reared at Garr House Farm, Gt. Wigborough, Colchester, CO5 7RR with some grazing on land around the reservoir. Meat you can trust, produced in a welfare friendly way.

Open Thursdays 11am-3pm, Fridays & Saturdays 10am-5pm
07790 095 052 www.garrhousefarm.co.uk

Bacon and sausage sandwiches available from the Visitor Centre

DONKEY & BUSKINS

We are a friendly local pub with a great range of beer, wine and fresh food, where drinkers and eaters alike are looked after with the same friendly and professional service.

We serve delicious freshly prepared food with quality, seasonal ingredients freshly prepared for great flavour. Great for a snack, business lunch or dinner with friends - or why not extend your stay in one of our bed and breakfast rooms.

High Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 0HU
01206 734774 www.donkeyandbuskins.co.uk

The Crafty Goat

Ice Cream Parlour & Internet Cafe

Claim your Free Coffee or Ice Cream Cone! Simply bring in this advert. (T&C's apply. Purchase required.)

National Award Winning Goat Milk Ice Cream - Available in over 50 natural flavours

Handmade on our own Essex farm using the finest local ingredients!
Fresh ground coffee, Gluten free cakes and home cooked hot food served daily

Butterfly Lodge, Mersea Road, Abberton, Colchester CO5 7LG
Tel: 01206 736850 www.facebook.com/TheCraftyGoatIceCreamParlor

Rye Farm

Farmhouse Bed & Breakfast and Self-Catering Accommodation

Rye Farm Bed and Breakfast has three comfortable, well-equipped rooms; two with king size beds and one with a double bed.

Wake up and open the curtains to fine views of Abberton Reservoir or our own garden then start your day by enjoying a substantial freshly-cooked English farmhouse breakfast in the relaxed comfort of our kitchen.

Each of our rooms has the following:

- En-suite facilities
- Colour Television and DVD Player
- Wi-Fi Broadband Access.
- Central heating
- Tea and coffee making equipment
- Hair dryer
- Refrigerator

Visiting for longer?
For a longer stay why not consider one of our four self-catering holiday apartments. Each is furnished and comprehensively equipped to a high standard.

To make a booking or request further information please contact Virginia or Peter Bunting
Telephone: 01206 734350 Email: peterbunting@btconnect.com
Rye Farm, Rye Lane, Layer de la Haye, Colchester, CO2 0JL
www.ryefarm.org.uk

THE LAYER FOX

Layer de la Haye – tel: 01206 738723 - www.thelayerfox.co.uk

The 17th century Layer Fox pub/restaurant is 1½ miles from the excellent Abberton Reservoir visitor centre. Completely refurbished in 2015, The Fox has a comfortable dining room, attractive bar plus a cosy snug and two terraces.

All food is freshly prepared and cooked on the premises. Bird watchers, dogs, children, ramblers & bicyclists welcome. Parking for up to 20 cars.

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 11:30 - 11:00; Sun 12:00 - 10:30
Food served: Mon-Fri 12:00 - 2:30 & 6:00 to 9:00
Sat 12:00 to 9:00; Sun 12:00 to 8:00

There are also four refurbished en suite double bedrooms.



Mute Swan ©www.eco-images.co.uk



Cormorant ©www.eco-images.co.uk



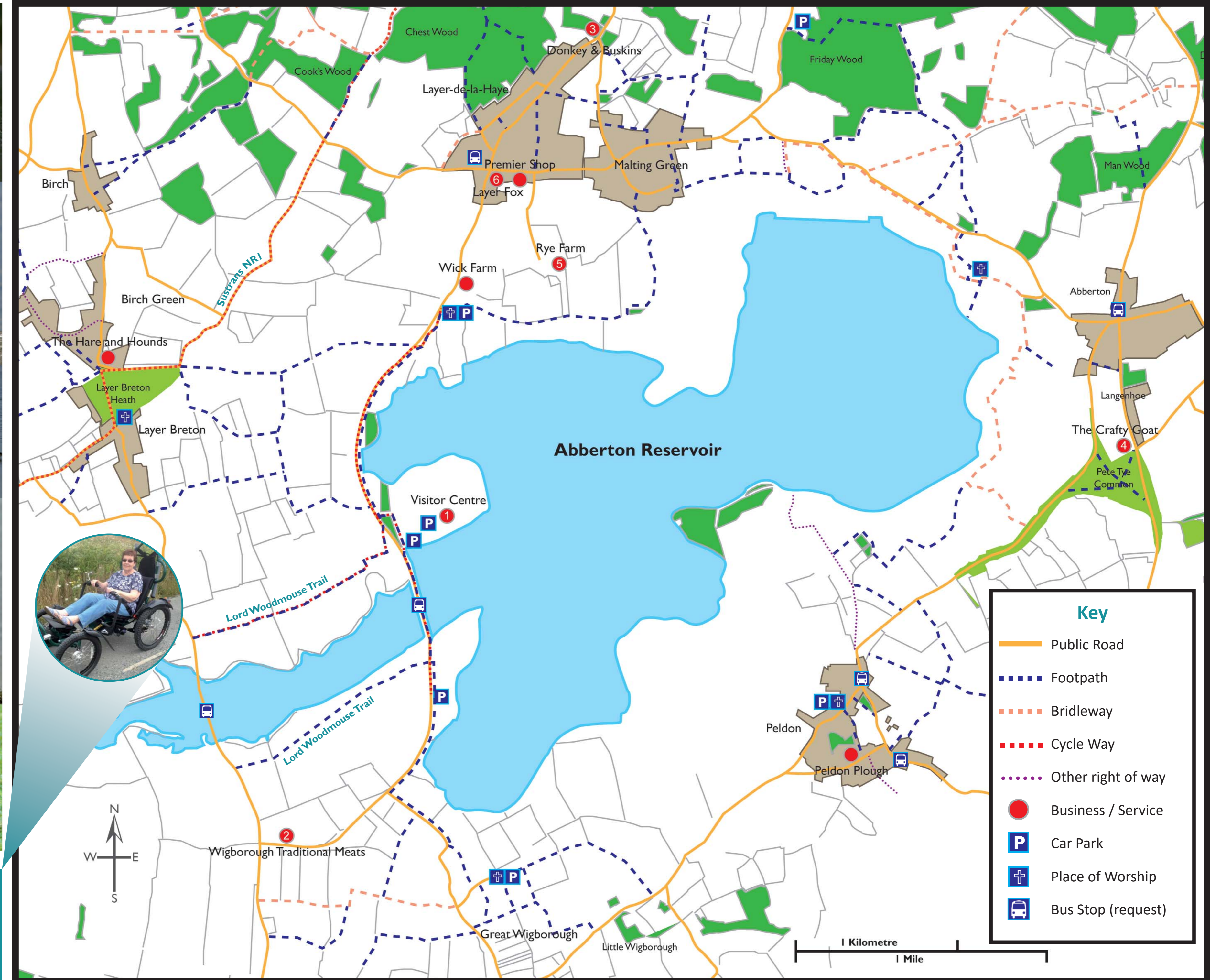
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Lapwing ©www.eco-images.co.uk



Hare



Key	
	Public Road
	Footpath
	Bridleway
	Cycle Way
	Other right of way
	Business / Service
	Car Park
	Place of Worship
	Bus Stop (request)

Enquire at the Essex Wildlife Trust Visitor Centre to book the off-road wheelchair to explore the Lord Woodmouse Trail.