

Detour to Trimley Marshes Nature Reserve

2.6miles /4.22 kl

At point ⑧ on the Loompit Lake Loop walk you may wish to take a detour to look at Trimley Marshes Nature Reserve. To do this turn left here and walk up the bridleway through trees and through hedgerows which would be attractive in autumn. The path goes down again and then opens out to where there is a bench and a lovely view of the River Orwell with good views over the countryside on your left hand side. The hill on your left is called **Sleighton Hill**. At 440 metres from Loompit Lake, the path forks.

Ⓐ At this point you can take the higher path along the embankment where you will have excellent views over the river but will be exposed to the wind. Alternatively the lower path (a bridleway) will be more sheltered and will be easier to get to the first hide. However this could be quite muddy after rain. Both paths are parallel to each other and from which you will see the cranes of **Felixstowe Port** ahead. Both paths then bend round to the right around a bay. If you are on the embankment you will have a good view over to your right of Shotley Point. Continue straight on the path you have chosen until the path bends sharply to the left.

Ⓑ At this point on the upper path there is a large sign which says Trimley Marshes and Nature Reserve. If you would like to visit the first hide you come to, and you are on the embankment, we strongly advise you come down to the lower path as access to the hide is much easier from here. The first hide is about 400 metres on your left. It should be open.

Ⓒ This is called Benson Hide and you will be able to sit and have a good view of the wildlife on the inland lakes. There are plenty of posters to help you identify the birds. If you wanted to spend more time here there are 4 more hides and a Visitor Centre. For further details please check www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org. However we have only given details of the walk to the first hide.

At this point return to Loompit Lake and continue the walk from Point ⑧.

N.B. The words that are emboldened can be found in a separate Gazetteer also found in this section of the website. There is also a special section on the birds seen on Loompit Lake below compiled by Robin Biddle.