

GOUTHWAITE WILDLIFE CENTRE: FACTSHEET

Gouthwaite Reservoir is well known for its wonderful birdlife all through the year, with Upper Nidderdale's landscape providing a stunning backdrop. The new Wildlife Centre will allow local people and visitors to learn about and enjoy the area's wildlife in a modern, sustainably designed timber building with fantastic views out across the water.

WHAT IS IT?

- A 50 sqm timber frame and clad building (measuring roughly 3.5m x 16m x 3.2m). The roof and walls will be made of the same timber - these will be natural in colour and therefore fade to grey over time.
- The entrance is centrally oriented; on entering the building there will be a window opposite allowing views out onto the reservoir.
- The gable ends will be glazed floor to ceiling to allow light to flood the building and provide views onto the reservoir to the south and into an area of trees and bushes to the north where smaller 'garden' birds can be observed.
- Internally the building contains two areas: a bird hide to the north and an information and interpretation room to the south. The bird hide will feature glazed viewing slots at seated and standing height; it will also make provision for disabled users. The room to the south will contain information on the reservoir and its special birdlife and signpost visitors to other opportunities / attractions up the Dale. Upto fifteen visitors will be able to use the building at any one time during daylight hours.
- The building will not be staffed, but it will be automatically locked overnight.

WHERE WILL IT BE?

- The Centre will be located on the edge of Gouthwaite Reservoir in front of the existing viewing platform on Wath Road (on the East of the road).

WHY BUILD IT?

- To create an exciting and lively new community venue.
- To improve the existing facilities and allow people to birdwatch in comfort.
- To provide a year-round location for people to learn about local wildlife and the reservoir.
- To signpost visitors to other opportunities / attractions up the Dale.

WHO IS INVOLVED?

Through the Upper Nidderdale Landscape Partnership, the project involves:

- Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
- Nidderdale AONB
- Nidderdale Birdwatchers
- Yorkshire Water

WHEN WILL IT HAPPEN?

- Following the public consultation, we intend to submit a planning application in March 2017, if this is approved we will begin fundraising to build the centre. Depending on how long it takes to raise funds the centre will be completed in either autumn 2017 or autumn 2018. To find out more information visit: <http://uppernidderdale.org.uk/>