

Title.	Distance	Place	OS Map
<b>Rabbit Ings Country Park</b>	1 – 2 Miles 1 – 3.2 Km	Rabbit Ings Royston Nr. Barnsley	OS 111 Sheffield & Doncaster

**The Country Park not visited yet.**

This old colliery tip was transformed in April 2011 into a creatively landscaped Country Park. The name 'Rabbit Ings' is from old maps of the area, the word 'Ing' comes from an Nordic meaning, low lying wetland. There are different marked routes up to 2 miles and the park has many habitats for bird life among the grassland, wetland, wood land and small heath land area and many species of wild life are found here.

- **Facilities** – Outdoor classrooms – Sports grounds – Car park – Small pond – Mountain bike trail - Cycling trail.

There are 2 car parks on the edge of the park on Lund Hill Lane - the Northern car park is opposite the Monckton Coke Works and is always open and the Southern car park is open when the sports facilities are in use.

- **Café** – There are café's and public houses in Royston.
- **Toilets** – There are no toilets in use unless, the sports facilities are being used.
- **Path** - The extensive network of footpaths is designed to be used for all including those with wheelchairs, pushchairs and buggies – mobility scooters can be used on all paths but you will need to take care on the steep slope paths that climb to the top of the tip.

**See gallery for Information – Nature Park not visited yet.**

- **Information** – There is a leaflet for the Country Park in the information and other information on the website.

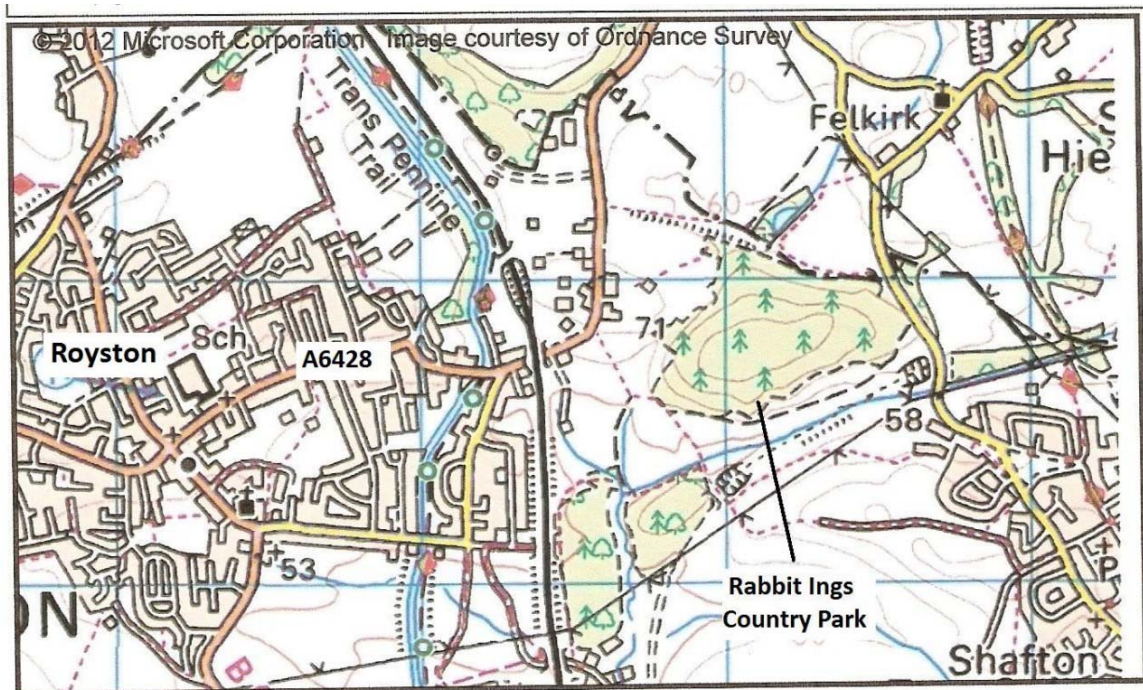
Tel. No. – Ranger Service – Groundwork Dearne Valley – 01226 740077

- **Website** - Rabbit Ings Country Park  
Rabbit Ings Country Park - [www.wakefield.gov.uk/.../SouthEast/RabbitIngs.htm](http://www.wakefield.gov.uk/.../SouthEast/RabbitIngs.htm)
- **Directions** – the Country Park is near to the M1 Barnsley junction 37 to Royston or junction 38 through Staincross to Royston – look for the A 6428 to Royston and Rabbit Ings Country Park is signposted.
- **Places to visit nearby** – Wentworth Village – Wentworth Castle & Gardens - Sculpture Park – Old Moor RSPB – Dearne Valley – Elsecar Heritage Centre – Worsbrough Mill – Cannon Hall.

# Walk trails in Rabbit Ings Country Park

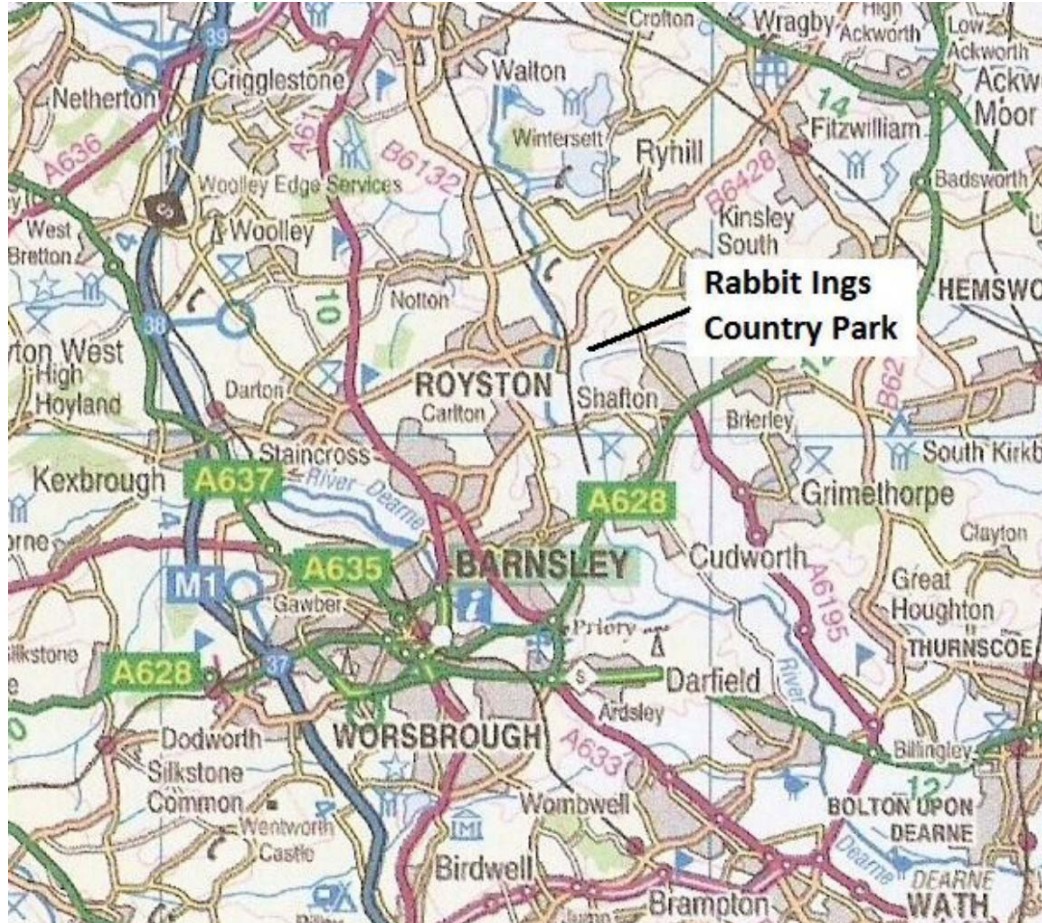


## Location of park



Royston, Barnsley [53.5978889465332 -1.4539200675201](https://www.google.com/maps/place/53.5978889465332,-1.4539200675201)

## Road location



## Access and Opening

The Country Park is open to the public for walking and cycling every day of the year.

The extensive network of footpaths is designed to be used by walkers, cyclists and those with wheelchairs, pushchairs and buggies. Mobility scooters can be used on all the paths but users will need to take care on the steep slope paths that climb to the top of the tip.

Use of the sports pitches, community room and changing rooms is by arrangement with Barnsley Council - contact details are below.

## Getting There

**Bus** - There are 3 bus routes that operate along Lund Hill Lane, Royston:

**Route 52** Travels between Barnsley and Ryhill.

**Route 58** Travels between Hemsworth, Fitzwilliam and Barnsley.

**Route 194** Travels between Wakefield, Crofton and Barnsley.

**Car** - Car parking space is available on Lund Hill Lane. The northern car park is opposite the Monckton Coke Works and is always open. The southern car park will be open when the sports facilities are in use, or when special events are taking place on site.

## You can help

We need members of the public to help us look after the Country Park. If you see any unauthorised motor vehicles, acts of vandalism, waste tipping or any other damage, please contact the Wakefield Council 24 hour phone line - 08458 506 506.

You will not have to leave your name or contact details.

For further information please contact:

**Ranger Service**  
Groundwork, Deane Valley - 01226 740 077

**Sports Ground Facilities**  
Barnsley Council - 01226 774 353

**Local Police** - 01226 736 361



## The Country Park Code

- Protect plants and animals
- Take any litter home with you
- Keep dogs under control and clear up any mess they make
- Always consider other users of the park
- Do not enter the water in any of the ponds in the park

## Motor Cycles and Quad Bikes

For health and safety reasons the park is not to be used by motorcycles or quad bikes. Any person found on site with such an unauthorised motor vehicle will be reported to the Police who can seize the vehicle and prosecute the owner.



March 2011

# Rabbit Ings Country Park, Royston



The old colliery tip has been transformed into a creatively landscaped country park.

## Rabbit Ings Country Park, Royston

The Rabbit Ings Country Park is a 66 hectare (163 acres) public open space located on the former pithead and tip of the Monckton/Royston collieries.

## Background

The Royston Drift Mine was closed in 1989 bringing to an end over 100 years of coal extraction on this and the adjacent Monckton site (now used by the Monckton Coke and Chemical works). The Monckton Colliery shafts were sunk in 1875 and production continued until 1966. The pit reopened as the Royston Drift Mine in 1976. Tipping on the Rabbit Ings site took place over the full life of both pits, leaving a 40 m (over 130 ft) high 'muck stack' in a derelict condition.

After many years of seeking funds to carry out a reclamation scheme, the project has been supported through the National Coalfields Programme, originally administered through English Partnerships and now the responsibility of the Homes & Communities Agency. This Programme has provided the £5,250,000 required to regenerate the site.



The former Royston Engine Sheds with the tip in the background.  
Photo courtesy of Royston History Group.

The site prior to reclamation



## Features of the Reclamation Project

Creating the park has involved:

- 130,000 cubic meters of soil and soil making material imported to site;
- Excavation of colliery spoil in selected areas to provide fill material to enable steep slopes to be made stable and safe;
- Cut and fill operations in south west area to create 4 new sports pitches with improved drainage provision;
- Management, treatment and disposal of any contaminated spoil;
- 8.6 Km (over 5 miles) of new footpath and cycleway routes to be created around and across the site with links into the nearby Trans Pennine Trail;
- Planting of 16 hectares of woodlands with over 36,000 trees and shrubs;
- Creation of specialist grassland habitats over an area of 35 hectares;
- Creation and protection of ponds and related wetland habitats;
- Protection of great crested newts - a European protected species that can only be moved under license from Natural England. Over 200 newts have been relocated into enhanced habitat areas just outside of the main contract site;
- Provision of changing room facilities and car park for new sports pitches.

# Rabbit *ings*

The name "Rabbit Ings" can be seen on old maps for this area. The word "Ings" comes from the Old Norse meaning low lying wetland. The Country Park includes new ponds and marsh areas on the northern and southern boundaries of the site.

There are several other "Ings" in South Yorkshire - for example Wath Ings and Denaby Ings. On old maps you can see Pool Ings off Pools Lane in Royston which is just to the south west of this site.

## Natural History

The site can boast an impressive list of species and as the country park develops this can only improve. It has 2 protected species, barn owl and great crested newt. New ponds have been created to improve the habitat for great crested newts. Another pond has been developed along with an outdoor classroom for schools. More information can be found on the interpretation board close to the pond by the south west entrance of the site.

Species seen on and around the Country Park include water vole, water shrew, grass snake, fox, roe deer, rabbits and hares, skylarks, and woodpeckers.

Redwings and Fieldfares flock in from northern Europe in Winter and they feed on the trees laden with berries.

The site has many habitats, such as acid grassland, wetland, ponds, woodland and even a small heathland area, which all support the diverse flora and fauna that can be found on the site.

**This is an important local nature reserve. All species of wildlife are protected by Wakefield Council, and no hunting or disturbance is allowed.**

