

## Fontburn

### *Access/entrances:*

The North Shore is best accessed from the car park at the north end of the dam (OL42 047938), with a track leading from the car park to the shore. The South Shore can be accessed from the car park at the southern end of the dam (OL42 048935), via a narrow gap next to a locked barrier.

An area of wetland and scrub to the north of the reservoir has restricted access. It can be viewed from the North Shore footpath or from the minor road running from the dam to Newbiggin Farm. There is space to park a vehicle alongside a locked 5-bar gate (OL42 046942) to view the rough grassland area grazed by Exmoor ponies. There are no paths through this area, as it contains a number of hazards including unstable ground, hidden metal objects and adders!

At the extreme western end of the reservoir there is a wetland nature reserve with authorised access only, which can be viewed from the end of the South Shore path. A public footpath also runs through the extreme western end of the reservoir, from Greenleighton (OL42 027921) to Newbiggin Farm (OL42 036942). The rest of the reservoir cannot be accessed from this path.

### *Terrain:*

Terrain on the North Shore is level and well-surfaced, and on the South Shore is undulating, narrow and muddy in places.

### *Paths:*

**North Shore:** A wide track with slight undulations and a level surface runs from the car park. This then becomes a grass track, and eventually a narrow, muddy pathway until the path ends at the edge of the nature reserve.

**South Shore:** Through the gap alongside the barrier from the car park, the path crosses a wide expanse of concrete before rising slightly onto a wide grass track. The track surface is relatively level but with a few protruding stones, and soon narrows, dips and becomes rough underfoot. A footbridge leads to an increasingly narrow path, which is uneven and sometimes muddy, and eight steps leading down to a long boardwalk. The boardwalk is sloping in places and there are steps at either end. There are further footbridges and shorter sections of boardwalk beyond this.

The public footpath at the western end of the reservoir is very narrow, muddy in places and can only be accessed by a long walk across tracks, fields and stiles.

### *Facilities:*

The car park at the south end of the dam has public toilets, a fishing lodge and picnic tables.

