

Wildlife Sites

A County wide habitat survey has recently been completed by the Manpower Services Commission on behalf of the Norfolk Naturalist Trust. It has identified a wide range of habitats of wildlife interest (Category C Sites in the survey), including heath, semi-natural grassland, broad-leaved woodland, wet meadows, ponds and fens. Some may, following more detailed investigation, become Sites of Special Scientific Interest, but the great majority will remain unprotected. They are often the most important wildlife sites in any parish and it is hoped that owners will also appreciate their value and leave them undisturbed.

A list of these Category C sites may be consulted at the Council Offices in Dereham.

W1L Gravel pits north of Easthaugh
A group of large lakes, none very old, surrounded by water meadows from which they were dug. Parts are still being worked for gravel. The pits are mesotrophic; winter pH7, water clear but not crystal clear, slight green algal colouration in summer, moderate to high productivity with aquatic plant beds and usually a reed swamp. The site can be described in various habitat areas. Neutral marshy grassland with drying fen vegetation, cleavers, reed canary grass, nettles, marsh marigold and yarrow. Semi-natural woodland of standard young oak and willows colonising a grassland area. A small gravel pit with aquatic yellow water lily, marginal bullrush, reed, young willow trees and steep banks with grasses. Semi-natural broadleaf woodland with coppice and standards and a small alder spinney. Scattered neutral shrubs, with willow scrub on marshy grassland and reed beds. The main habitat area is a large lake presently at an early stage of development. The margins are colonised by young willow, hard rush and willow herb, also mint, coltsfoot, soft rush, reedmace, marsh bedstraw, and sedge is common, also flag. Fauna includes fish in the lakes and a variety of wildfowl.
Norfolk Phase 1 Habitat Survey Ref. No. 677

W2L Lakes north west of Lyng village
Lakes, wooded margins and meadows providing a variety of habitats for plants and animals. Area of neutral grassland around the lakes is semi-improved with impeded drainage, occasional scattered willows, the low variety of herb is perhaps due to grazing pressure. Mesotrophic lake with wooded margins of alder, willow and hawthorn scrub, violet in the ground flora, also a marginal flora of soft rush, pond sedge, watercress and willowherb. Mesotrophic lake with margins of reedmace along with a small number of willows, soft rush and marsh marigold. Mesotrophic lake with large wooded margins of alder, willows and reedmace, small reed

beds, willowherb, watercress and slender tufted sedge. Small eutrophic pond with reedmace and soft rush margins. Large mesotrophic lake; apart from a few willows the margins are open and are dominated by bullrush and soft rush. Watercress and willowherb are present. On the banks are a number of small sedges including star sedge. Some reed is also present. Fauna includes fish in the lakes and a variety of bird species.

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