

Roydon Common National Nature Reserve

Roydon Common was declared as a National Nature Reserve in 1995 and represents the largest remaining area of heathland and valley mire in the county. The reserve is 192 ha in size, is part of Roydon Common SSSI and is owned and managed by Norfolk Wildlife Trust.

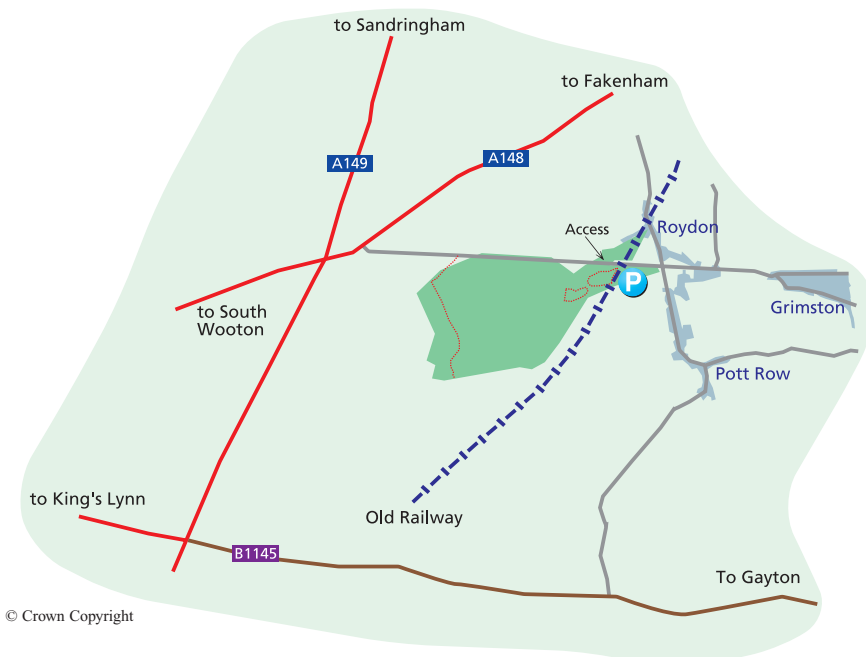


Photo: Peter Wakely

Dry/wet heath at Roydon Common NNR

The site is of international importance and is a mosaic of dry and wet heath, valley mire, rough pasture and woodland. The lowland mixed valley mire, a complex series of plant communities grading from wet acid heath through valley mire to calcareous fen, is considered to be one of the best examples in Britain.

Roydon Common NNR
Scale 1cm = 0.77km



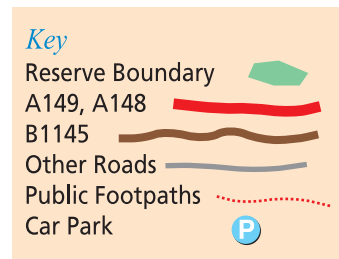
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The mire is extremely diverse, and supports many uncommon plants such as black bog-rush, bog orchid, marsh fern, cranberry, bog asphodel, common cotton-grass, all three species of sundew and carpets of sphagnum moss.

The pools are important breeding grounds for a variety of dragonflies including the broad-bodied chaser and black darter. To the east of the mire is an extensive area of pedunculate oak/silver birch woodland and acidic grassland. Parts of the pasture are very wet, and 'hovers' have developed.

The area of dry heathland is dominated by heather, and also contains gorse, silver birch and bracken.

Many flowers are supported in grassy clearings on the drier ground, and these attract butterflies such as green and purple hairstreaks and brown argus.



Managed by



Fact File

LOCATION

TF687224 4 km north east of King's Lynn. Landranger 132.

HABITATS

Heath, bog, woodland.

SPECIES

Dragonflies, bog asphodel, sundews, raptors.

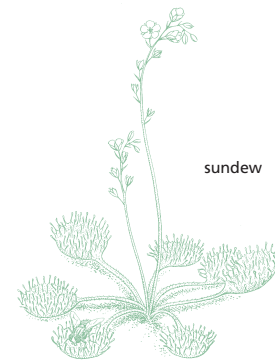
ACCESS

Please keep to the marked nature trail which is at the eastern end of the reserve, or to the public footpath at the west. Dogs must be kept on a lead and under control at all times and their owners should take note of all other warnings which may appear at different times of year.

CAR PARKING

Car parks on site

Uncommon birds including nightjar and curlew breed on the site. Hen harrier, merlin and sparrowhawk use the common as a roosting site in the winter.



Management

Lack of management and water abstraction are seen as the main threats to the site. There is an active scrub-control programme, and grazing is being introduced on part of the site, with the intention of returning the entire site to sustainable management through grazing. Plans for water level management are being drawn up. The installation of water-monitoring equipment will help to evaluate the significance of threats to water quality and water supply.