

# Dersingham National Nature Reserve

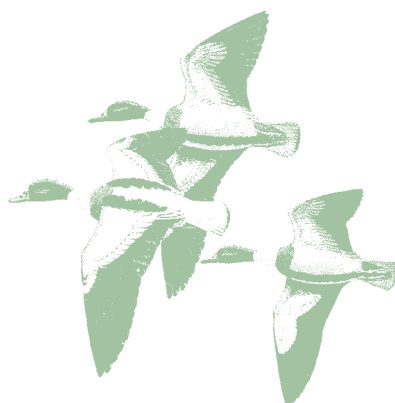
Dersingham NNR forms part of the Sandringham Royal Estate and is managed for its wildlife by English Nature. A wide variety of habitats is found there, including dry heathland, wet heathland, acid valley mire, deciduous woodland and coniferous woodland. The site forms part of what was once a vast heath stretching the entire length of the north west Norfolk Greensand escarpment from King's Lynn to Heacham.

Acid valley mire is found in the low-lying parts of the reserve where the ground is waterlogged for most of the year. Dersingham contains the largest example of this habitat in East Anglia, and many specialised plants such as bog asphodel, round-leaved sundew, cranberry and white-beaked sedge grow there.



Summer dawn at Dersingham Bog looking over south mire

Photo: Ash Murray



shelduck

The reserve is also important for a rock type dating from the Lower Cretaceous known as “Dersingham Formation” which has been important to the understanding of the local geology of this period. The peaceful tranquillity of Dersingham Bog, with its rich and varied landscape and unusual range of habitats, represents one of the few remaining ‘wilderness’ areas left in a landscape otherwise dominated by intensive agriculture. The ancient coastal escarpment provides commanding views across the Wash to the Lincolnshire coast, whilst the mosaic of heathland habitats and woodland provide places for people to come and walk in peaceful surroundings.



**Key**  
 Reserve Boundary  
 A149  
 Other Roads  
 Guided Walk  
 Car Park

Dersingham NNR  
 Scale 1cm = 0.39km

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Managed by



## Fact File

### LOCATION

Adjacent to Wolferton village in West Norfolk. Landranger 132.

### HABITATS

Heathland, acid valley mire, pine and birch woodland, woodland rides, bracken.

### SPECIES

Shelduck, nightjar, tree pipit, woodlark, black darter dragonfly.

### ACCESS

All of Dersingham is open access with several well-marked routes provided to help visitors explore the site. Admission is free. Please note that dogs must be kept on a short lead at all times in the northern section of the reserve to protect ground-nesting and wintering birds. Elsewhere, from April to August dogs must be kept on a short lead to prevent disturbance to breeding birds. Dog walkers are requested to check local signage at the main car parks to ensure they comply with restrictions current with their visit.

### CAR PARKING

Wolferton and Scissors Cross car parks (TF663285 and TF668280 respectively).

## Management

In order to restore the heathland habitats for which the site is so important, English Nature has been working to remove the self-seeded scrub that has come to dominate large areas of the reserve. This work has been conducted over the last decade and has been very successful. During the past decade, the nightjar population on the site has more than doubled, woodlarks have gone up from zero pairs to three/four pairs and glow-worms have spread across almost all of the restored areas.