

# Hickling Broad National Nature Reserve

Managed by



Photo: NWT

The Tree Tower at Hickling Broad NNR

Hickling Broad and marshes was established as a NNR in 1958 and is owned and managed by Norfolk Wildlife Trust. It is part of the Upper Thurne Broads and Marshes SSSI, and represents one of the largest expanses of open water in East Anglia. Despite having suffered a deterioration in water quality in past years due to nutrient enrichment, the broad is improving

and supports an important aquatic flora including holly-leaved naiad and 3 species of nationally rare stoneworts (freshwater seaweeds). The broad is thought to have been formed by peat and clay-digging and is only 1.5 m deep with a gravel bottom. The fen communities of the reserve support a remarkable number of rare insect species including the swallowtail butterfly whose larvae feed on milk-parsley.

The greatest attraction of the reserve to most visitors is the expanse and mosaic of the various wetland habitats typical of the Broads. There is a good view of these - open water, fen, reedbeds and grazing marsh - from top of the Tree Tower (see Access for details). Hickling Broad is also an excellent place to see a wide range of Broadland wildlife, including butterflies (for example swallowtail butterflies) and dragonflies (such as emperors and the Norfolk hawker).



bittern



Hickling Broad NNR  
Scale 1cm = 0.6km

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## Fact File

### LOCATION

TG428222, 3 km south-east of Stalham. Landranger 134.

### HABITATS

Open water, fen, grazing marsh, dykes, reed 'hover'.

### SPECIES

Swallowtail butterfly, rare insects, aquatic plants, marsh-harrier, bearded tit, holly-leaved naiad, wintering wildfowl.








### ACCESS

Series of connecting trails of different lengths, including a Water Trail by boat. The Water Trail operates between mid May to mid September. Telephone NWT Hickling Broad Visitor Centre for bookings (01692) 598276. The Tree Tower is accessible only from the Water Trail and affords an excellent view of Broadland. Disabled access along boardwalk and trail to the broad. A charge is made for non Norfolk Wildlife Trust members visiting the reserve. No dogs allowed.

### CAR PARKING

Car park is located at NWT's Reserve Visitor Centre which is situated off Stubb Road, and signposted from Hickling village.

### Key

- Reserve Boundary 
- Reserve Boundary (over water) 
- A149, A1062 
- Other Roads 
- Public Footpaths 
- Car Park 
- River 

### Management

Reed and sedge cutting, dyke clearance, grazing management, scrub control, water level and visitor management.