

Martham Broad National Nature Reserve

Managed by



Fact File

LOCATION

TG457203, 2km north east of Martham. Landranger 134.

HABITATS

Open broad, reed and sedge fen, carr woodland.

SPECIES

Swallowtail butterfly, bearded tit, bittern, marsh harrier, invertebrates, wildfowl.

ACCESS

Public footpaths from staithe at West Somerton. Boat access is available only through the marked navigation channel that passes through the reserve.

CAR PARKING

Limited parking at West Somerton staithe on B1159 to the north of the village. Please do not park in Staithe Road or along the main road through West Somerton.



Photo: Peter Wakely

Martham Broad NNR

Martham Broad NNR is part of the Upper Thurne Broads and Marshes SSSI and is owned and managed by Norfolk Wildlife Trust. The reserve has 3 habitats: open water, reed and sedge fen. The broad, which is a shallow brackish lake, is thought to have been formed by flooding of peat-diggings prior to the 13th century, and is surrounded by areas of reedbed and species-rich sedge fen. Martham Broad has not suffered from deterioration in water quality and retains one of the most diverse assemblages of aquatic plants in Broadland. A fringing zone of reed swamp

dominated by common reed and lesser reedmace surrounds the broad. Fen communities occur on the firmer ground behind the reedswamp and these are composed of extensive reedbed, dominated by common reed, commercial sedge beds, dominated by saw sedge, and species-rich mixed fen of both reed and sedge. Good views across the reserve can be obtained from the raised public path which passes the southern edge of the site, and in summer this path is one of the best areas for swallowtail butterflies in Broadland.



marsh harrier

Management

Reed and sedge cutting.