

NWT Sparham Pools Nature Reserve. TG073179

This 11 hectare site of reclaimed gravel pits is owned by the Sayer family of Sparham Hall and is run with the Norfolk Wildlife Trust, the Wensum Valley Trust and Sparham Parish Council as a nature reserve. A public footpath runs along the northern boundary and forms part of a circular trail around the reserve.

The open water forms the main body of the reserve, however a walk around reveals areas of phragmites, oak woodland, remnants of heather, gorse scrub and moss covered patches as well as grazing meadows, arable land and a series of landscaped pits viewable from the footpath. This variety ensures that throughout the year there is always something of interest

Bird species

All year.

Great Crested Grebe
Cormorant
Common wildfowl & waterbirds
Sparrowhawk
Kestrel
Common gull species
Kingfisher
Green Woodpecker
Great Spotted Woodpecker
Sky Lark
Meadow Pipit
Pied Wagtail
Common scrub birds
Marsh Tit
Bullfinch
Reed Bunting

Spring/autumn.

Passage waders

Summer.

Oystercatcher
Common Tern
Cuckoo
Turtle Dove
Hirundines
Sedge Warbler
Reed Warbler
Common Whitethroat
Blackcap
Garden Warbler
Chiffchaff
Willow Warbler

Winter.

Winter thrushes
Goosander
Siskin
Redpoll

Fifty yards from the reserve entrance the bridge over the River Wensum is a good place to see Grey Wagtail.

Free access at all times. Level terrain along narrow grass and mud paths with short stretch of boardwalk.

Car park but no other facilities.

To get there: take the A1067 towards Lenwade-Great Witchingham. About 1 mile west of that village take the minor road (south) to signposted Lyng. Shortly after entering the 40 mph area the road starts to go through trees. On the left, the entrance to the car park is cunningly hidden there, with a footpath signposted at the edge of the road.