



































NOTICE
No swimming
No fishing
No dogs
No litter

















SWINTON

PARK



Marfield Wetlands



Damselfly and bee on thistle

Welcome to Marfield Wetlands, a former sand and gravel extraction area. Commercial extraction started in the 1950s and ceased in 1996. In the same year it was designated a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINAC). Ecology Agencies Ltd acquired Marfield in 1998 from Balfour plc. The 20 hectares are a community reserve. Habitats include open water, marsh, wet grassland, exposed sand and shingle and woodland. It is one of many sites in the River Ouse corridor that demonstrate their ecological importance following natural restoration.

There are two car parks. A three km circuit of the footpaths around the edge of the reserve takes up to two hours and is easy walking, although parts can be wet in winter. There are three hides, the North hide having disabled access. Enjoy the wildlife but please keep to the footpaths and have dogs under control at all times.

The changing seasons - spring into summer

In March, most of the wintering ducks and geese have gone. 'Pace willows' blossoming with bees dominate the early-flowering glens but some primroses and cowslips are out. By mid-month expect to hear chaffinches in the woods, the oystercatcher flock could exceed 50, and you may see great crested geese, little grebe and lapwing displaying.

In early April, sand martins and meadow larks come over the open water, redbreast and mallard display and wheatear are present on the shingle. Look out for willow warbler and blackcap singing from the thickets. By mid-month common sandpiper, little ringed and ringed plovers and widgeon warblers can be seen. Overwintering peacock butterflies emerge and brownish darts in and out of the woodland-edge where the first bluebells flower. Keep an eye open for greylag goose goslings, which first appear in April. Early May brings common and lesser whistlers which join the resident buzzards, reed buntings and yellowhammers singing from their territories. Young lapwings run about the wet grassland. Orange-tip and lady blue butterflies join blue-tailed and common blue damselflies. These damselflies are often present in large numbers on the western boundary.

In June, more reed-buntings and duckback ducklings appear, and peacock and small tortoiseshell join the other butterflies. Common spotted orchids and large daffodils of wood flowers.

Bright and radiant brown butterflies appear in July. By mid-month, brown hawker and common darter dragonflies appear and ponded bats and red Admiral butterflies numbers increase. Special flowers are common: common, great and channel bellflowers, marjoram and large yellow daisies of being mown on the shingle. As the month's end, migrating wading birds start to trickle back. Keep an eye open at all times for moor, wood and the chance to see.



Key
Footpath
Bridleway
Interpretation panel
Car park
River Ouse

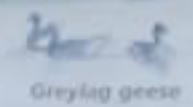


Orange-tip butterfly (male)

Common-spotted orchid



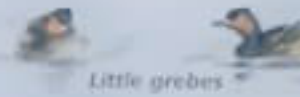
Swallow



Greylag geese



Tufted ducks



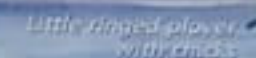
Little grebes



Oystercatcher with young begging for food



King plover



Little ringed plover with willow



Shelduck with ducklings

Small tortoiseshell





































CYCLISTS
SHOULD
DISMOUNT

Feet
6
5
4
3
2
1



























