

Mid Yare National Nature Reserve

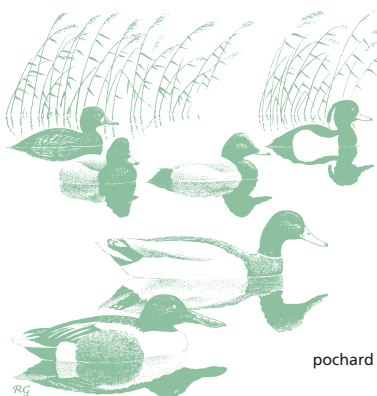
The Mid Yare NNR, which was declared in 1997, is a complex wetland site 803 ha in size. It is situated in the middle reaches of the River Yare some five to 13 km east of Norwich. The site includes large parts of the Yare Broads and Marshes SSSI and Cantley Marshes SSSI and is owned (part is leased) and managed by the RSPB.



Swallowtail larva on milk parsley at Strumpshaw

Photo: RSPB

The NNR is a key Broads site with great botanical and ornithological interest. It exemplifies a range of Broads habitats including broads and dykes, reedbed and tall fen, botanically-rich fen meadows, lowland wet grassland and areas of willow-alder carr on fenland peats. Traditional management of the unimproved fen meadows,



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which involves both summer mowing for hay and grazing, has favoured a herb-rich sward supporting many rare and unusual plant communities.

Open water habitats are well represented in the reserve but many of these broads are directly connected to the nutrient-rich waters in the main river and water plants are poorly-developed in the phytoplankton-dominated waters. However, the complex network of dykes within the grazing marshes at Cantley and Buckenham is isolated from the main river, and contains an exceptional assemblage of water plants including several important species such as the nationally rare sharp-leaved pondweed and four nationally scarce species: whorled water milfoil, greater water parsnip, hair-like pondweed and the charophyte *Tolypella intricata*.

The Reserve supports an impressive range of important invertebrates such as the swallowtail butterfly and the Norfolk hawk dragonfly and is the breeding site of many species of wetland bird including snipe, water rail, bittern, spotted crane, marsh harrier and grasshopper warbler.

A large population of Cetti's warblers is present and the site is the main stronghold for this species outside southern England. A wide variety of duck nest around the water bodies and include shoveler, pochard, tufted duck and a nationally important population of gadwall.

A wintering flock of bean geese feeds on Buckenham and Cantley Marshes and roosts nearby on the site. The marshes also support nationally important wintering flocks of wigeon and white fronted

Managed by



Fact File

LOCATION

TG348053. Marshes north and south of the River Yare between five and 13km east of Norwich.

HABITATS

Unreclaimed fen, carr woodland, open water, grazing marsh, dykes, reedbed.

SPECIES

Wintering and breeding wildfowl, marsh harrier, bean geese, Cetti's warbler, gadwall, wigeon, dyke flora, invertebrates eg swallowtail butterfly.

ACCESS

Footpaths, RSPB nature trail with a variety of habitats and hides situated at Strumpshaw. The trail is open throughout daylight hours every day of the year except Christmas day. Non RSPB members are charged an entrance fee. Phone the site manager on (01603) 715191 or RSPB Norwich office on (01603) 661662 for details.

Free access to Surlingham Church Marsh and hides at all times. No dogs allowed on visitor trails.

CAR PARKING

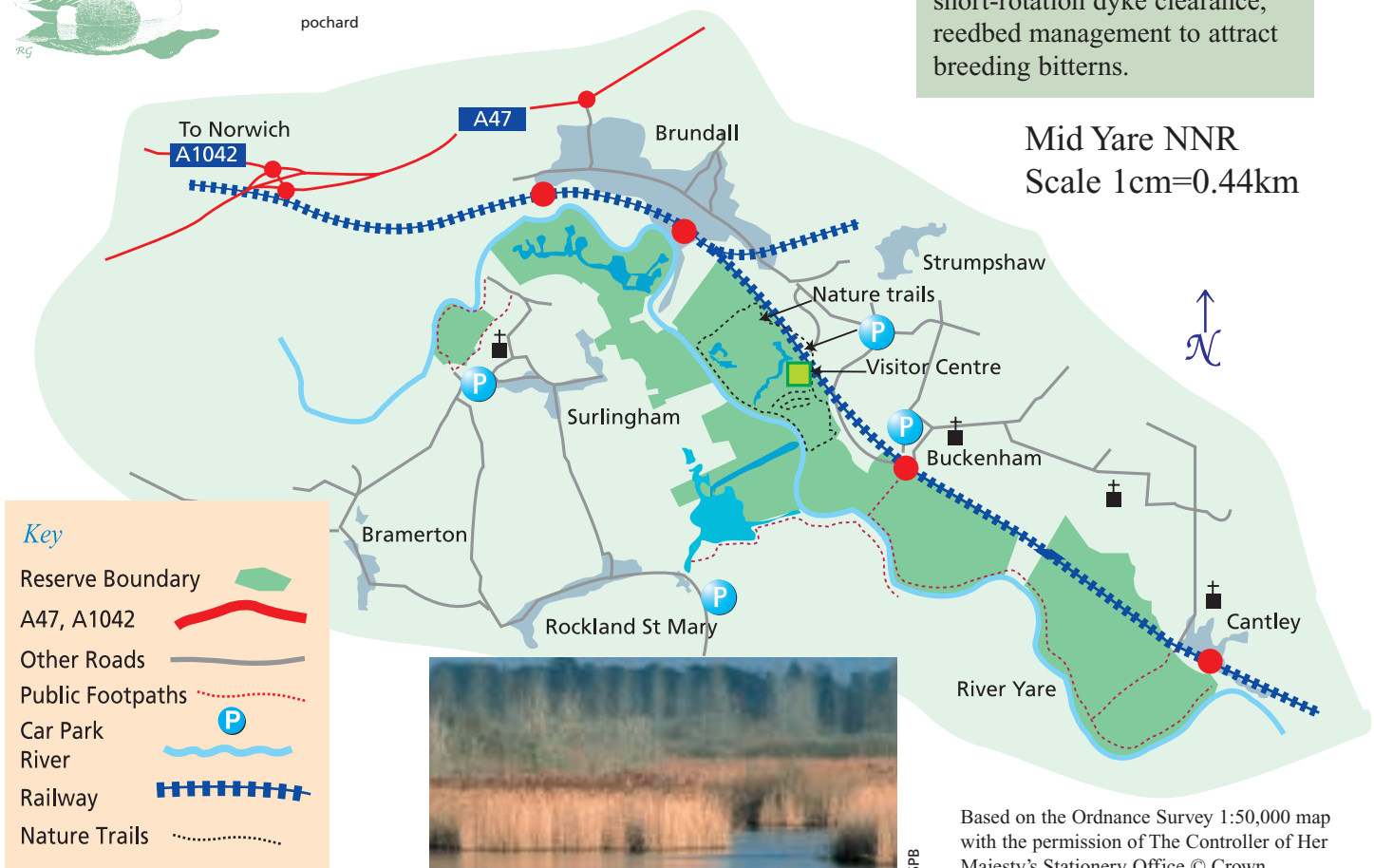
There is a car park at Low Road, Strumpshaw (half a mile southeast of Brundall) for access to RSPB trails. Informal car parking exists elsewhere: at Surlingham church: to the north of Buckenham railway crossing and at Rockland Staithe.

geese and, elsewhere on the site, there is a wintering roost of hen harriers.

Management

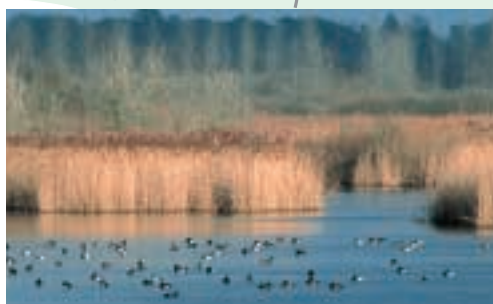
Protection of areas of reedfen from tidal inundation to benefit breeding and wintering birds and internationally important plant communities, control of water levels on the marshes and areas of alder woodland, scrub control, harvesting of fen and fen meadow, summer grazing, short-rotation dyke clearance, reedbed management to attract breeding bitterns.

Mid Yare NNR
Scale 1cm=0.44km



Key

- Reserve Boundary
- A47, A1042
- Other Roads
- Public Footpaths
- Car Park
- River
- Railway
- Nature Trails



Mid Yare NNR

Photo: RSPB

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