

Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust

Thurlby Fen Slipe



Location & Access

OS: 130 • **GR:** TF 119 164 • 7.80ha (19.20 acres) • Freehold 1988

Habitat type: Marsh/Wetland

Situated on the north side of the River Glen opposite the Trust's Baston Fen nature reserve, Thurlby Fen Slipe is reached from the A15 by turning east at Thurlby crossroads. Passing Thurlby church on the right, follow the lane for 1.5km (0.9 miles) and then turn right along Baston Edge Drove green lane to the reserve entrance where there is parking space for cars at the end of the drove road. There is a linear path along the length of the reserve.

Description & Management

Slipe is the land at the foot of a river bank, and this reserve, which is about 2km (1.2 miles) long, consists of old flooded borrow-pits with a gravelly bed, associated reedbeds, scrub and grassland and adjacent hedgerows. The grassland area to the east of the

reserve was arable until 1986, and part of it has been scraped to encourage an extension of the main reedbed.

The pools have a rich flora, which includes scarce marsh and aquatic plants such as greater tussock-sedge, greater spearwort, water-violet and fen pondweed. Purple-loosestrife, marsh pennywort, marsh-marigold and common spotted-orchid are also among the 210 species of flowering plants that have so far been recorded on the site. Cowslips make a spectacular show in spring. Fine chub lie in the clear pools.

Birds are numerous and varied: 109 species have been recorded, of which 40 have bred. The reserve is noted for its dragonflies with 15 species regularly recorded, 14 of which are known to have bred. 23 species of butterfly have been recorded, most favouring the west end of the reserve.

Management has involved clearance of some of the overgrown pools, scrub control, hedge laying, path

maintenance and conversion of the former arable land into meadow and wetland habitats. The water-level in the pools and marshy areas are controlled by a sluice.

Thurlby Fen Slipe

GR at E TF 119164 (Baston Edge Drove entrance)

