

# Boultham Mere



Lincolnshire  
Wildlife Trust



## Location & Access

**OS:** 121 • **GR:** SK 957 713 • 19.1ha (47.30 acres) • Freehold 1988

**Habitat type:** Marsh/Wetland

Follow the track alongside the drain, crossing the railway at a gated crossing. After about half a mile, there is a crossing point at a sluice over the drain that leads to the southwestern bank of the reserve. Take care not to disturb wildfowl when climbing the bank.

## Description & Management

Gift from British Rail Property Board. Known formerly as Skewbridge Ballast Pit, the reserve lies within the City of Lincoln but, because it is bounded by the railway and Pyewipe Main Drain, it is a comparatively quiet and secluded sanctuary. As its old name suggests, it was excavated as a source of ballast for the construction of the railway. It has since matured into a most attractive lake with beds of reed and sedge, and emergent vegetation. There are mature trees and shrubs, mainly willow and sallow, flanking the railway. A hide overlooks the mere to the west of the reserve.

Covering over 47 acres, the reserve attracts many wintering wildfowl, including teal, shoveler, goosander and goldeneye. There are also many breeding birds, including up to 20 pairs of both reed and sedge warblers, two pairs of great crested grebes and three pairs of little grebes. Kingfisher and common tern also breed on the reserve. The reserve provides a regular site for wintering bittern. Over the years, scarce birds recorded include Savi's warbler, marsh warbler, purple heron, goshawk, Mediterranean gull, little gull, hobby and osprey. The reserve and adjoining drain are rich in

dragonflies and damselflies with 12 species regularly recorded. Many butterflies may be seen in summer, including orange-tip, ringlet, large skipper, meadow brown and wall brown. Flowering plants of interest include greater spearwort and water-violet which is a "red data species" featured in the Trust's publication *Nature in Lincolnshire: Towards a Biodiversity Strategy*.

