

## 50. Walmore Common

**Geographical Coordinates** 51°50'N 2°23'W

**Area** 51ha

**Location** Approximately 10km west-south-west of the city of Gloucester, in the county of Gloucestershire, south-west England.

**Date of Ramsar Designation** 5 December 1991.

**Other International Designations** Special Protection Area under EC Directive 79/409.

**National Designations** Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

**Principal Features** An area of low-lying improved and unimproved grassland close to the River Severn. The area is dissected by a network of drainage ditches and is subject to intermittent seasonal flooding. The common is grazed by cattle during the summer months and is surrounded by improved grassland. It regularly supports internationally important numbers of wintering *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*, although the average peak count for the five winters 1987/88 to 1991/92 was 153 - fractionally below the threshold of 170 birds required for qualification under Ramsar criterion 3(c). These swans also use the Upper Severn Estuary Ramsar site (see account number 33). Locally important concentrations of other Anatidae and wader species also occur in winter, especially when the site is flooded. (3b)

**Conservation Issues** Part of Walmore Common is protected through a management agreement established by English Nature. The importance of the site depends on the maintenance of regular, shallow flooding during the winter months and a lack of disturbance from human activities.