

# Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS)

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## 1. Name and address of the compiler of this form:

### Joint Nature Conservation Committee

Monkstone House

City Road

Peterborough

Cambridgeshire PE1 1JY

UK

Telephone/Fax: +44 (0)1733 – 562 626 / +44 (0)1733 – 555 948

Email: [RIS@JNCC.gov.uk](mailto:RIS@JNCC.gov.uk)

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

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## 2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

Designated: 05 March 1993 / Updated: May 2005

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## 3. Country:

UK (England)

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## 4. Name of the Ramsar site:

Roydon Common

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## 5. Map of site included:

a) **hard copy** (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List): *yes -or- no*

b) **digital (electronic) format** (optional): Yes

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## 6. Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude):

52° 46' 24'' N      00° 30' 02'' E

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## 7. General location:

Nearest town/city: King's Lynn

In west Norfolk, 4 km north-east of Kings Lynn and 9 km south-east of the eastern shore of the Wash.

**Administrative region:** Norfolk

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## 8. Elevation (average and/or max. & min.) (metres):    9. Area (hectares): 194

Min.      No information available

Max.      No information available

Mean      No information available

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## 10. Overview:

Roydon Common is an area of lowland mixed valley mire surrounded by heathland. It sits on the Cretaceous greensand of west Norfolk, within a broad south-west-facing valley basin. It has a classic sequence of vegetation types associated with valley mires of this type. The dry heath of the upper slopes is hydrologically linked with wetter lower slopes, which experience seasonal waterlogging and are colonised by wet heath. This grades into the valley bottom, which is permanently waterlogged, and comprises acid bog and nutrient-poor fen communities, blending into more base-rich fen and carr woodland in the valley bottom.

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## 11. Ramsar Criteria:

1, 3

**12. Justification for the application of each Criterion listed in 11. above:**

Ramsar criterion 1

The site is the most extensive and representative example of valley mire-heathland biotope within East Anglia.– It is a mixed valley mire holding vegetation communities which reflect the influence of both base-poor and base-rich water.

Ramsar criterion 3

The vegetation communities have a restricted distribution within Britain. – It also supports a number of acidophilic invertebrates outside their normal geographic range and six British Red Data Book invertebrates.

**Secretariat Comment: Species names have to be mentioned and included in the next update.**

**13. Biogeography:****a) biogeographic region:**

Atlantic

**b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme (include reference citation):**

Council Directive 92/43/EEC

**14. Physical features of the site:**

Soil & geology	acidic, basic, sand, peat, nutrient-poor, sedimentary, sandstone
Geomorphology and landscape	lowland, valley
Nutrient status	mesotrophic, oligotrophic
pH	acidic, circumneutral
Salinity	fresh
Soil	mainly mineral, mainly organic
Water permanence	usually permanent
Summary of main climatic features	Annual averages (Marham, 1971–2000) ( <a href="http://www.metoffice.com/climate/uk/averages/19712000/sites/marham.html">www.metoffice.com/climate/uk/averages/19712000/sites/marham.html</a> ) Max. daily temperature: 13.8° C Min. daily temperature: 5.7° C Days of air frost: 51.9 Rainfall: 621.3 mm Hrs. of sunshine: 1536.6

**General description of the Physical Features:**

No information available

**15. Physical features of the catchment area:**

No information available

**16. Hydrological values:**

Recharge and discharge of groundwater, Maintenance of water quality (removal of nutrients)

**17. Wetland types**

Inland wetland

Code	Name	% Area
U	Peatlands (including peat bogs swamps, fens)	61.8
Other	Other	38.2

**18. General ecological features:**

The main habitats and vegetation communities of this site are base-rich fen, nutrient-poor fen, acid mire, wet humid heath, wet carr woodland and acid dry heath. The mire communities are present in a distinct zonation grading from the acid dry heath, through wet heath to nutrient poor mire and fen in the valley bottom. The main NVC mire and wet heath communities are M14, M25a, M21b, M16a and M16e. Within the mire there are other smaller areas of swamp, tall herb fen, rush pasture and bog pool communities present.

**19. Noteworthy flora:****Nationally important species occurring on the site.**

Nationally scarce: *Hammarbya paludosa*, *Crassula tillaea*, *Dactylorhiza traunsteineri*

Lower Plants.

*Thelypteris palustris* (nationally scarce), *Lophozia capitata* (nationally rare), *Kurzia sylvatica* (nationally scarce).

**20. Noteworthy fauna:****Species Information****Nationally important species occurring on the site.****Invertebrates.**

Nationally rare (RDB).

*Buckleria paludum*, *Macrocera fascipennis*, *Allodia embla*, *Eutolmus rufibarbis*, *Podalonia affinis*, *Lasioglossum brevicorne*

Nationally scarce.

*Idaea muricata*, *Harpalus punctatulus*, *Marpissa radiata*, *Aphrophora alpine*, *Megamelodes lequesnei*, *Delphacodes capnodes*, *Exechia exigua*, *Exechiopsis ligulata*, *Epicrypta linnophila*, *Tetanocera phyllophora*, *Crambus hamella*, *Sympetrum sanguineum*, *Adscita stactes*, *Earias clorana*, *Hypnoides humidialis*, *Macrochilo cribumalis*, *Orthonevra geniculata*, *Pterostichus angustatus*, *Hydroporus neglectus*, *Ilybius guttiger*, *Helochares punctatus*, *Paradelphomyia nielsenii*, *Limnophila puchella*, *Hyperaspis pseudopustulata*, *Crustulina sticta*, *Megachile leachella*.

**21. Social and cultural values:**

Aesthetic  
Conservation education  
Current scientific research  
Livestock grazing  
Tourism

**22. Land tenure/ownership:**

Ownership category	On-site	Off-site
Non-governmental organisation	+	
Private	+	+
Public/communal	+	

**23. Current land (including water) use:**

Activity	On-site	Off-site
Nature conservation	+	
Tourism	+	+
Recreation	+	+
Research	+	
Commercial forestry		+

Arable agriculture (unspecified)		+
Permanent arable agriculture		+
Livestock watering hole/pond	+	
Grazing (unspecified)	+	
Rough or shifting grazing	+	
Industry		+
Sewage treatment/disposal		+
Irrigation (inc agricultural water supply)		+
Mineral exploration		+
Transport route	+	+
Urban development		+

**24. Factors adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land (including water) use and development projects:**

*Explanation of reporting category:*

1. Those factors that are still operating, but it is unclear if they are under control, as there is a lag in showing the management or regulatory regime to be successful.
2. Those factors that are not currently being managed, or where the regulatory regime appears to have been ineffective so far.

NA = Not Applicable because no factors have been reported.

Adverse Factor Category	Reporting Category	Description of the problem (Newly reported Factors only)	On-Site	Off-Site	Major Impact?
No factors reported	NA				

For category 2 factors only.

What measures have been taken / are planned / regulatory processes invoked, to mitigate the effect of these factors?

Is the site subject to adverse ecological change? NO

**25. Conservation measures taken:**

Conservation measure	On-site	Off-site
SSSI / ASSI	+	
NNR	+	
Land owned by a NGO for nature conservation	+	
Management agreement	+	
Site management statement/plan implemented	+	
Other		+
SAC	+	

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**26. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:**

No information available

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**27. Current scientific research and facilities:**

**Habitat.**

English Nature/Norfolk Wildlife Trust site unit monitoring - condition assessments of individual compartments based mainly on vegetation.

Detailed NVC survey of mire communities carried out 1992-93.

**Environment.**

Hydrological monitoring of groundwater levels and abstraction licence impacts by the Environment Agency.

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**28. Current conservation education:**

None reported

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**29. Current recreation and tourism:**

**Activities, Facilities provided and Seasonality.**

Quiet recreation - birdwatching, botanising and walking on nature trails mainly.

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**30. Jurisdiction:**

Head, Natura 2000 and Ramsar Team, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, European Wildlife Division, Zone 1/07, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6EB

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**31. Management authority:**

Site Designations Manager, English Nature, Sites and Surveillance Team, Northminster House, Northminster Road, Peterborough, PE1 1UA, UK

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**32. Bibliographical references:**

**Site-relevant references**

- English Nature (199\*) *Roydon Common SSSI site management statement*. English Nature, Norfolk Team
- McLeod, CR, Yeo, M, Brown, AE, Burn, AJ, Hopkins, JJ & Way, SF (eds.) (2004) *The Habitats Directive: selection of Special Areas of Conservation in the UK*. 2nd edn. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough. [www.jncc.gov.uk/SACselection](http://www.jncc.gov.uk/SACselection)
- Norfolk Wildlife Trust (2003) *Roydon Common National Nature Reserve management plan 2003–2008*. Norfolk Wildlife Trust
- Shirt, DB (ed.) (1987) *British Red Data Books: 2. Insects*. Nature Conservancy Council, Peterborough
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Please return to: **Ramsar Secretariat, Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland**  
Telephone: +41 22 999 0170 • Fax: +41 22 999 0169 • email: [europa@ramsar.org](mailto:europa@ramsar.org)