

Designated Sites

The Borough has a variety of designated sites for biodiversity and nature conservation. These range from International, European, national and local sites of importance.

The **International** and **European** sites have the highest level of protection. This means that a proposal which is detrimental to the functioning of the site will not be allowed to take place. Where there is an overriding public need then alternatives may need to be found.

In relation to wildlife and nature conservation, the European Community has adopted two Directives in response to its obligations under the Bern Convention: the Birds Directive, and the Species and Habitats Directive. These Directives provide for the protection of animal and plant species of European

importance and the habitats which support them, particularly through the establishment of a network of protected sites. More recently, the European Community has adopted the Water Framework Directive, under which member states are required to achieve stated targets for protecting and improving inland and coastal waters. To find out more about our international sites please visit: www.jncc.gov.uk



Dersingham Bog, Source: www.talltrees-norfolk.gov.uk

National sites also have a high level of protection under legislation such as the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Protection of Badgers Act 1992, Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 and the Hedgerow Regulations 1992.



Again, national sites have a high degree of protection and a lot of this responsibility falls to local authorities, and statutory bodies such as Natural England and the Environment Agency. Local organisations such as the Norfolk Wildlife Trust and landowners and farmers are also involved in protecting designated sites.

To find out more about our national sites please visit: www.naturalengland.org.uk

Norfolk Coast AONB Source: www.norfolkcoastaonb.org.uk

Local sites are protected under the local authority Local Plans and emerging Local Development Frameworks or organisations such as Natural England, the Norfolk Wildlife Trust and the Forestry Commission.

What Designated Sites do we have in the Borough?

King's Lynn and West Norfolk is lucky to have a large number of designated sites, most of which are easily accessible. It must be borne in mind however that some of these sites although open to the public, support rare and fragile species and ecosystems, therefore it is important to check before visiting factors such as whether dogs can be taken on site and when ground nesting birds are breeding. This information can usually be found on managing organisations website.

Norfolk Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Please contact the Norfolk Coast Partnership for details:

www.norfolkcoastaonb.org.uk

Ramsar Sites in the Borough – Internationally recognised for their wetland importance

- Dersingham Bog
- Roydon Common
- North Norfolk Coast
- Ouse Washes
- Wash

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) – Internationally recognised for their unique habitats.

- Dersingham Bog
- Roydon Common
- North Norfolk Coast
- Ouse Washes
- Wash
- Breckland,
- Norfolk Valley Fens
- River Wensum

Special Protected Areas (SPA) – Internationally recognised for their birdlife.

- Ouse Washes
- Breckland
- The Wash
- North Norfolk Coast.

To find information regarding RAMSAR sites, SAC's and SPA's please visit:

www.incc.gov.uk

National Nature Reserves (NNR) –

- The Wash
- Holkham
- Scolt Head Island
- Holme Dunes
- Dersingham Bog
- Roydon Common.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest – nationally recognised for their ecological and geological importance.

- 29 sites in the Borough, Please contact Natural England for details on these and NNR's: www.naturalengland.org.uk

County Wildlife Sites – locally recognised for their biodiversity value.

- 195 sites in the Borough, please contact Norfolk Wildlife Trust for information: www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk

Other Sites of Importance

- 23 ancient woodlands, 5 historic parks and gardens, 42 Conservation Areas and approximately 2000 Listed Buildings in the Borough.

Please contact the Borough Council for more details: www.west-norfolk.gov.uk