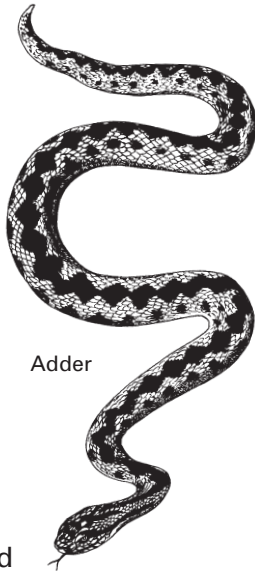


## Reptiles and Amphibians

Common lizard, slow worm, adder, grass snake and great crested newt can all be found here. Look for slow worm and adder basking in sunny spots sheltered from cold winds. The adder, like all British snakes, is timid and non-aggressive to humans. Please avoid disturbance and do not approach too closely.

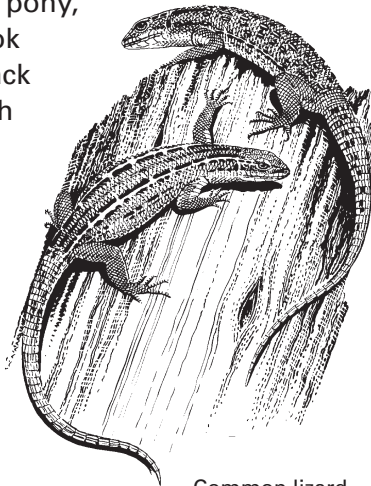


Adder

## Conservation Management

To maintain the open heathland NWT is grazing the common with hardy breeds of pony, cattle and sheep. Look for the distinctive black Hebridean sheep with their curly horns.

NWT's vision is that Roydon Common will one day form the centrepiece of a much larger area of heathland and wetland habitats in and around the Gaywood Valley. The first step to achieving this has been taken with the purchase of 110 hectares of conifers adjacent to Roydon Common at Grimston Warren. This area is being restored by NWT to heath and wetland over the coming years.



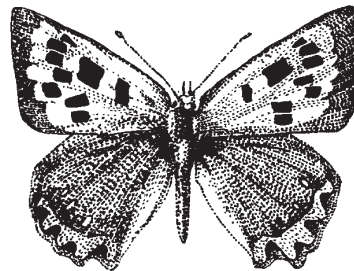
Common lizard

## Visiting the Nature Reserve

The nature reserve is open daily, free of charge, from dawn to dusk throughout the year.

Please keep dogs under close control to avoid disturbing ground nesting birds and livestock, and keep to pathways as heath and bog habitats are fragile and easily damaged by trampling.

NWT Roydon Common is east of King's Lynn. Leave King's Lynn on the A149 towards Fakenham. Turn onto the A148 signposted Fakenham at the Rising Lodge roundabout and after 300 metres turn right to Roydon. Two car parks are available on your right as you approach Roydon. The first is 1km from the A148 and the second at 2.7km.



Small copper

**Norfolk Wildlife Trust**  
Bewick House  
22 Thorpe Road  
Norwich  
NR1 1RY

**Tel: 01603 625540**

**Email: [admin@norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:admin@norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk)**  
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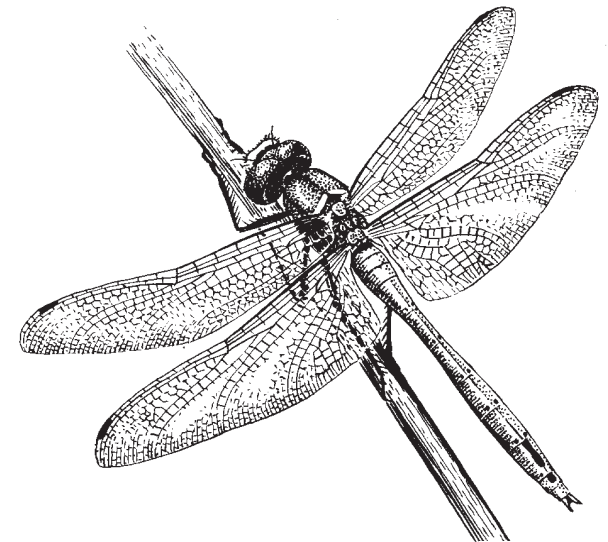


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# National Nature Reserve



## NWT Roydon Common NNR



Supported by the  
Heritage Lottery Fund



## Introduction

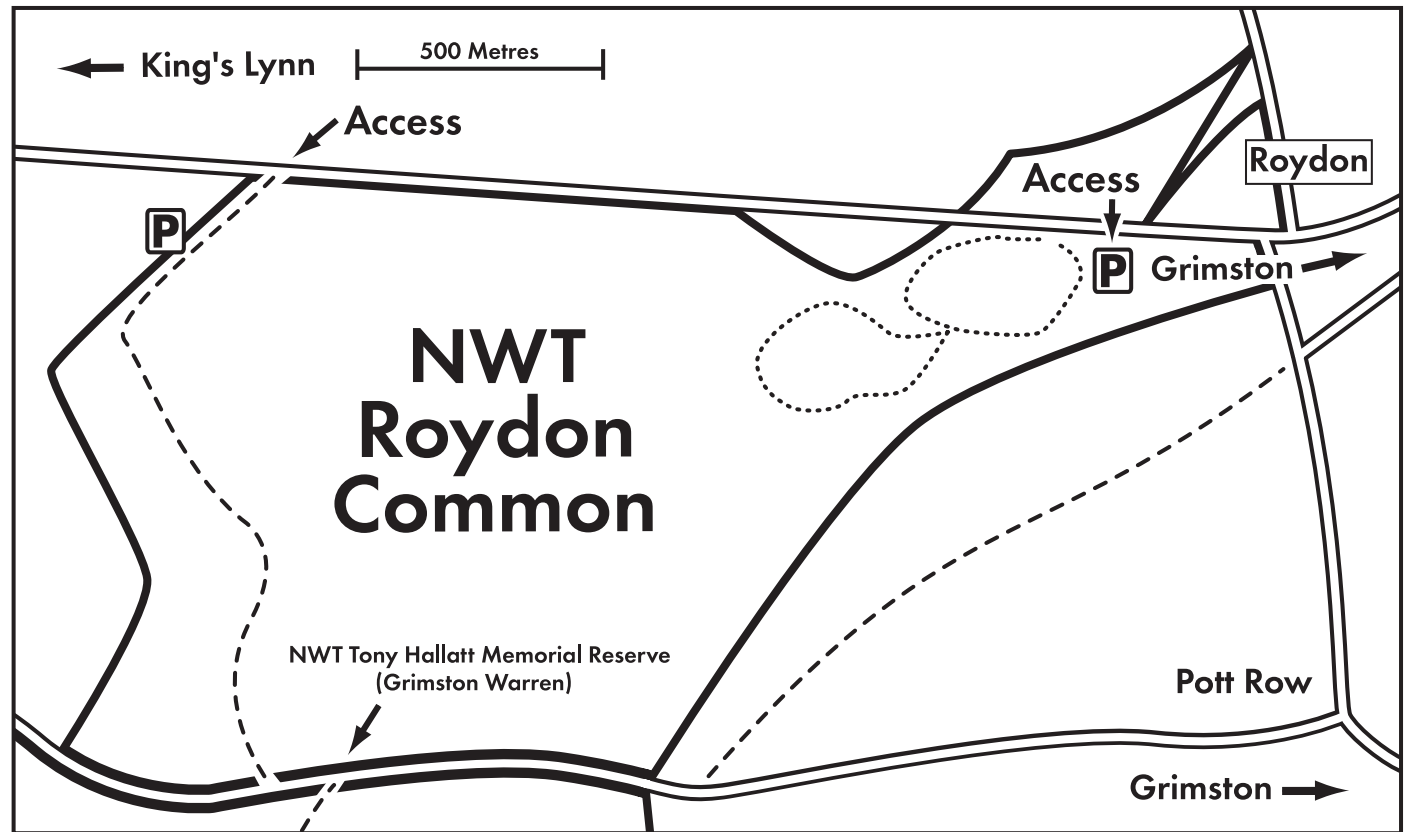
Ancient and beautiful, NWT Roydon Common is the largest surviving open heath in west Norfolk – a relic of the ancient grazing areas that once covered much of this part of the county. Long recognized for its landscape and wildlife importance, it was designated a National Nature Reserve (NNR) in 1995. With sweeping views, primaevial bogs, heather-clad heaths and walks along ancient drove-ways, this nature reserve has an atmosphere of real wildness. In summer the heath buzzes with colour and heat, and is wild and windswept in winter.

## Commons and Heaths

NWT Roydon Common is an outstanding example of a largely vanished landscape. The majority of west Norfolk's commons and heaths were previously enclosed and are now under the plough or commercial forestry. Heathlands have vanished in more recent times as a result of neglect, because without the grazing of animals trees soon take over the open heathland and its specialized wildlife is lost. In the past Roydon Common was a valuable resource for local people who grazed donkeys, geese and cattle here and cut peat for fuel. Today it remains as valuable as a place of natural beauty freely open to all for quiet enjoyment.

## Wildlife and Habitats

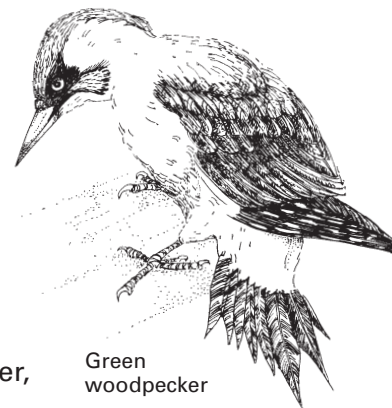
Wet and dry heathland, woodlands of birch, willow and oak, and wet peaty mires; the richly patterned landscape here is a mosaic of colours and habitats. Many unusual plants are found on the nature reserve. In early summer a 'river' of yellow flowers of bog asphodel runs down the valley. Also look for cotton grass, cranberry,



bog myrtle, cross-leaved heath and sundew in the wetter areas and heather, sheep's sorrel and wood sage in drier areas.

## Birds

In spring and summer key breeding species include nightjar, woodlark, snipe, tree pipit, nightingale, and woodcock. At any time of year you are likely to see green woodpecker, skylark, yellowhammer, linnet and kestrel. In winter hen harrier, merlin and short eared owl roost.



Green woodpecker

## Butterflies

31 species have been recorded here, attracted by the variety and abundance of wildflowers. White admiral, small copper and green hairstreak are among the less common species regularly recorded on the site.

## Dragonflies

The many bog pools provide valuable habitat for dragonflies and damselflies and 18 species have been recorded. These include typical species of heaths and bogs such as four-spotted chaser and emerald damselfly. In East Anglia, the striking black darter breeds only at Roydon Common and Dersingham Bog.