

COUNTY: Norfolk

SITE NAME: WRETHAM PARK MERES

DISTRICT: Breckland

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

Local Planning Authority: Breckland District Council

National Grid Reference: TL 902918                      Area: 27.47 (ha) 67.88 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 144                      1:10,000: TL 89 SE, TL 99 SW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1971                      Date of Last Revision: N/A

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1983                      Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:  
The boundary is unchanged.

**Reasons for Notification:**

Wretham Park Meres consist of four natural lakes that contrast strongly with the nearby fluctuating meres. Aquatic plants are generally sparse but there is good fringing vegetation which provides an important nesting habitat for wildfowl. The lakes also attract large populations of wintering ducks.

Water plants include Yellow Water Lily *Nuphar lutea*, White Water Lily *Nymphaea alba* and Spiked Water Milfoil *Mynophyllum spicatum*. The fringing vegetation is well developed and is mainly dominated by Reed *Phragmites communis* and Lesser Bulrush *Typha angustifolia* with variable amounts of Common Clubrush *Scirpus lacustris*, Yellow Iris *Iris pseudacorus*, Amphibious Bistort *Polygonum amphibium* and Reed Canary-Grass *Phalaris arundinacea*.

Breeding wildfowl include diving ducks due to the moderate water depth, and Mallard, Teal, Gadwall, Shoveler, Tufted Duck and Pochard all breed. Reed and Sedge Warblers are abundant in the surrounding reed-swamp. Mickle Mere, the largest lake, has many duck decoys that have only recently fallen into disrepair. Large flocks of duck are present in the winter with Goldeneye, Goosander and Pintail in addition to the breeding species. Uncommon birds such as Osprey, Bittern and Bearded Tit have been recorded in the spring and autumn.

The partly planted and partly naturally re-generated deciduous woodland surrounding Mickle Mere forms an additional subsidiary habitat and screens the open water from disturbance.