

From Beach to Broads

There are many varied habitats within The Broads, from the beach and sand dunes of Horsey and Winterton to the wonderful broads, rivers, fens and woods further inland. This wide range of habitats means we have lots of wildlife, some of it very rare and special, some less rare but still a delight to see.

Britain's coast holds the majority of the North Atlantic breeding grey seals and so the area of beach at Horsey is a very important site for these large mammals. In the summer little terns (which look like small seagulls) breed on Winterton beach. The sand dunes are home to many wild plants and reptiles such as adders. Behind these dunes the sand gradually changes into grazing marsh, with pools which are important for natter jack toads. Wintering birds such as golden plovers and pinkfoot geese can often be seen there in large flocks. All year round you can hear the plaintive song of the lapwing and the sharp call of the oyster catcher. Feeding on the marsh or soaring across the skies you may see common cranes, their long necks outstretched in flight. The majestic marsh harrier also graces the skies over the marsh, reed-beds and

broads. From some parts of the dunes there are views across to Horsey Mere and the impressive Horsey Mill, built to drain water from the marshes; a mill has stood on this site for 200 years. The mill is open Easter to October. There are walks and viewpoints around the mere where you can explore the wonderful landscape and wildlife.

Beyond Horsey Mere are vast areas of reed-bed, Hickling Broad and the River Thurne. Look to the south-west and spot Martham Church tower and the wind turbines of West Somerton. The Broads information centre at Potter Heigham is open from Easter to October, with lots of ideas on things to do and where to see wildlife.



Broads Authority

The Broads - a member of the
National Park family

Exploring Horsey

- 1** Horsey Mill
- 2** Path and viewpoint with wheelchair access
- 3** Brograve Drainage Mill - built in 1771 by Lord Brograve.

4 Poppylands Cafe

5 All Saints' Church - built around 1220. The tower is a roost for owls and other birds of prey

6 Nelson Head pub

7 Winterton-Horsey Dunes
Site of Special Scientific Interest, you could see little terns, nightjars, buntings, stonechats, hen harriers, sparrow hawks, barn owls and rough legged buzzards.

