



**Purple loosestrife**

Keep an eye out for hares, which are quite common, as well as Chinese water-deer. Taller than muntjac, with large, rounded ears, they are easily spotted when running across the fields. They have no antlers but the adults have long upper canine teeth. This species of deer is native to China and Korea and was first brought to Britain in 1873 when it was kept at London Zoo. It was subsequently introduced to many parks from where it has escaped into the wild.

Head south at the farm buildings and on to the bank surrounding Woodwalton Fen. This gives an excellent view over the rest of Darlow's Farm. Here the land lies much wetter and is where wetland birds are found. In winter open pools attract wildfowl and in spring and early summer waders such as lapwing and snipe. Water voles are also found throughout Darlow's Farm.

From the bank you can rejoin paths in Woodwalton Fen.



**Different types of dragonfly and damselfly are colonising the ditches in Darlow's Farm**

The project partners wish to thank the Heritage Lottery Fund for their generous support



## Visiting the Nature Reserves

### Woodwalton Fen

This beautiful nature reserve is one of Britain's oldest, purchased in 1910 by the Hon Charles Rothschild. It covers 208 hectares and comprises wildflower meadows, reedbeds and woodland, as well as ditches and meres. It hosts a vast range of wildlife including 400 types of plant such as the rare Fen violet, and many species of birds and invertebrates. The fen is always open to visitors and is a wonderful place to explore. Dogs are not allowed but are welcomed on a lead at Holme Fen. Parking is available alongside the drain.

### Holme Fen

The largest silver birch woodland in lowland England, Holme Fen covers an area of 266 hectares. Amongst the Silver birch, Alder, Sallow and other trees can be seen. Other habitats include heath and open water. The reserve supports many species, such as Small Copper butterfly, Nightingale and Cross-leaved heath. The reserve is always open and dogs are welcome on leads.

Both Woodwalton Fen and Holme Fen are managed by English Nature. If you would like more information, call the Site Manager on (01487) 812363 or visit [www.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk)

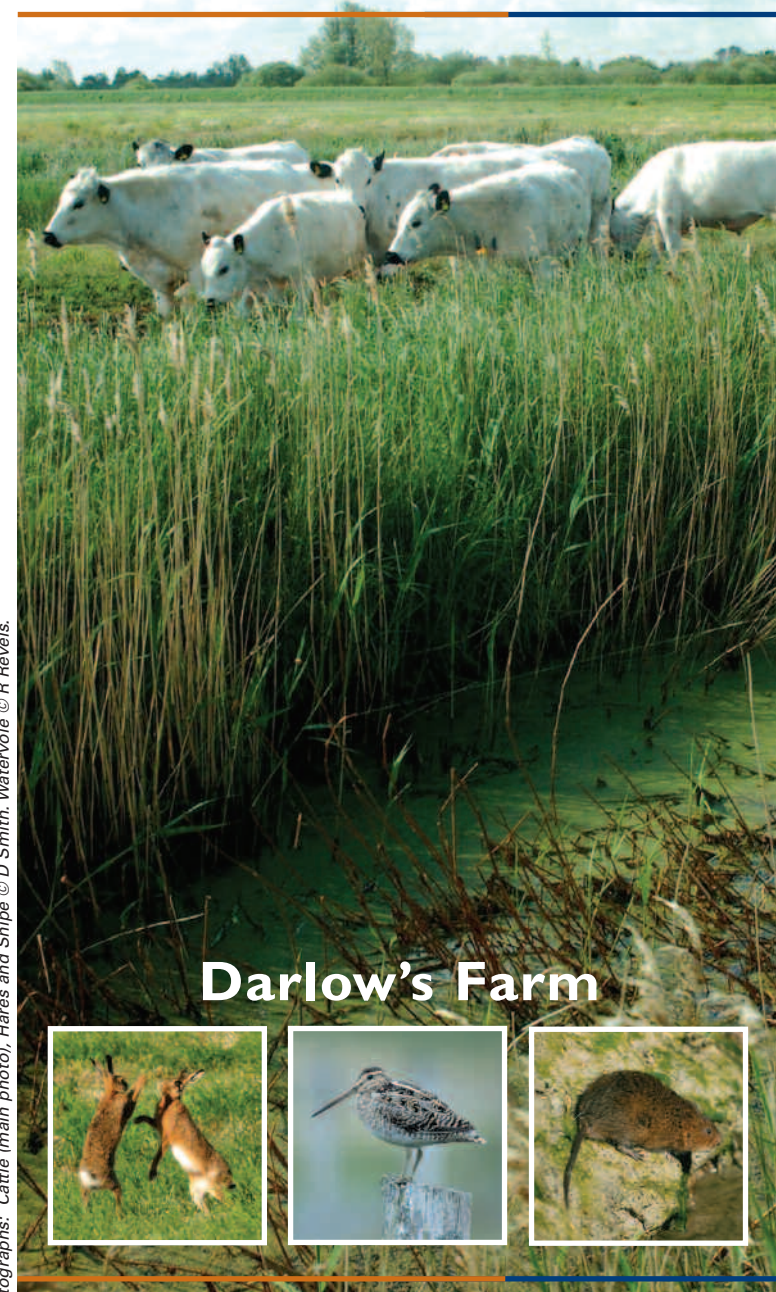
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## Great Fen Project Partners



Photographs: Cattle (main photo), Hares and Snipe © D Smith. Watenvole © R Revels.



## Darlow's Farm



# The Great Fen Project

One of the most exciting habitat restoration projects ever undertaken in Britain will create a 3700-hectare wetland between Huntingdon and Peterborough. The wetland will safeguard threatened habitats and wildlife, and provide for leisure, tourism and business. The project is a partnership between the Environment Agency, Huntingdonshire District Council, Natural England and the Wildlife Trust. The partners are working with local people to help the vision become a reality.

## Darlow's Farm

Darlow's Farm was purchased in 2002 with a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Its restoration started in 2004. Our aim is to create new wildlife habitat that will benefit a range of animals and plants. The land is owned by Natural England.

Water levels have been raised by installing sluices and dams. Water lies on the surface of some of the fields during winter and spring, attracting wintering birds and nesting waders such as lapwing and snipe. Later in the year, the land is grazed by cattle and hay is also cut.

## Recreation and Access

You can walk through Darlow's Farm using the paths marked on the map below. This suggested route is approximately 4km long. From the northern edge of Woodwalton Fen, climb the stile in to the field and walk along the side of the ditch away from Woodwalton Fen. At the end of the field turn left and follow the track.

## Water vole



The tall pine tree marks the spot where a bungalow stood. This was the farmhouse in which the farmer originally lived. It has now been removed and is being re-erected at Ramsey Rural Museum.

### Key

-  Wet grassland
-  Very wet places
-  Scrub
-  Deciduous woodland
-  Farmland
-  Farm boundary
-  Ditches
-  Public footpath
-  Reserve path
-  Road
-  Track

