



Messingham Sand Quarry

Location and Access

OS: 112 • **GR:** SE 908032 •

40.00 hectares

(100.00acres) • Leasehold 1981

Habitat type: Wetland/Heathland

The reserve lies to the east of the B1400 Messingham-Kirton road. The entrance is opposite Scallow Grove Farm (look for electricity pylon). A track leads from the entrance to a small car park, where a waymarked circular route is indicated.

Description and Management

The reserve has been created by the excavation of sand, which has left a series of lagoons of differing depths with fringing beds of reed rush. There is a small area of remnant heath supporting heather, petty whin and other heathland flora.

Woodland, grassland and marsh add varied habitats and support a vast array of flora including 6 orchid species. The richness of wildlife reflects this diversity of habitat and includes more than 180 species of bird (over 70 of which breed), 20 species of butterfly, over 250 species of moth, more than 16 species of dragonfly and over 100 species of bee and wasp.

Management consists of keeping the grass, gorse, willow and bramble in check and maintaining the marshes and reedbeds.

