

## Ridlins Mire

A small but very unusual dome of peat with associated mire vegetation.



This small area of wetland has developed where water, in the form of a spring, appears at the surface at the junction of two geological deposits: permeable sands and gravels overlying impermeable boulder clay. The permanently wet conditions created by the impeded drainage have allowed the development of peat, slowly growing over many years into a domed structure. This unusual [habitat](#) is technically called 'rheotrophic hangmire' and is only one of four in Hertfordshire and Middlesex.

The top of the peat dome supports an unusual spring-line [fen](#) and mire vegetation with prominent tussock sedge and marsh marigold. The [rank](#) vegetation around the peat dome is dominated by hairy willowherb, meadowsweet and great horsetail. Rarer plants include marsh valerian, ragged robin and marsh thistle. Studies of the [invertebrates](#) have revealed several rare spiders and beetles.

In addition to the small peat bog area, there are two other parts to the reserve. The southern-most section consists of rank marsh vegetation with scattered [scrub](#), and this is separated from the peat area by a small, grazed meadow, and a belt of mature scrub.

Ridlins Mire is leased by the Trust from Stevenage Borough Council.

The reserve is managed by being mown, although it is hoped that a traditional grazing regime can soon be restored.

- [Get driving directions](#)
- [Find nearby public transport](#)

### How to Get Here

Location

Stevenage

Directions

From Stevenage take the A602 towards Hertford. After a series of roundabouts the reserve can be reached via a gate off Gresley Way.

Public Transport Links

Bus stop on Broadwater Lane; trains to Stevenage.

Walking Links

Map Reference

TL 263222

Visitor Guide

Size

1 hectare

Access to site

Access around site

Walking time

Advice on what to wear/bring

Wellingtons required. The peat dome is very wet at all times. It is advisable to keep to the edges.

Map of site (if available)

