

## Tewinbury



The site lies in the Mimram valley, and contains a variety of habitats including wet meadow, tall fen / swamp, alder carr, willow scrub, willow pollards and chalk stream.

The tall fen/ swamp occurs around a lagoon (overlooked by a hide) and along adjacent channels, and has a mixture of common reed, reed sweet-grass and common reed-mace. Willow scrub has been slowly invading the lagoon, but has been kept under control by Trusts staff and volunteers. During 2006 and 2007 considerable work has been undertaken to make the swamp much wetter by removing silt build up and raising water levels. This work, combined with the removal or pollarding of willows, encourages recolonisation by common reed.

Wetland plants associated with the swamp include hemp agrimony, common comfrey, reed canary grass, water figwort, brooklime, water forget-me-not, marsh marigold, hairy willowherb, lesser celandine, yellow flag, purple loostrife, ragged robin and wild angelica. The surrounding banks support great horsetail, butterbur and town hall clock. There remain remnant tussocks of greater tussock sedge, a species now uncommon in

Herts.

The swamp area is important for both wintering and breeding birds. In winter, reed buntings, yellowhammer and pied wagtail form night-time roosts in the swamp and carr. Breeding species include reed bunting, reed warbler, sedge warbler and occasionally grasshopper warbler. Mallard, coot, and moorhen also breed. Other species of note include kingfisher, water rail, snipe and woodcock. The site is also a passage stop-over for migrating warblers and other wetland birds.

The wet meadows vary in composition with the soils. Species here include meadowsweet, cuckooflower, greater birds-foot-trefoil, marsh horsetail, marsh thistle, skullcap and monkey flower. Marsh pennywort and southern marsh orchid, both uncommon in Herts, can be found. The alder carr woodlands around the meadows have notable species opposite-leaved golden saxifrage and remote sedge. Flocks of siskins and redpolls feed in the woodland during winter.

The River Mimram is a valuable chalk stream with a rich aquatic flora and fauna. River water-crowfoot, water starworts, water cress and lesser and greater pond sedge. Many different aquatic invertebrates have been recorded. Brown trout, water vole and otter can all be found within the stream.

Other species recorded include 3 shrew species, harvest mice and 5 species of bat.

### What's new at Tewinbury

#### Double Decker Fun!

Our new two-storey hide at Tewinbury is located on the site of the old, single-storey hide. It will give visitors fantastic views down into the reedbeds and it's also one of the best sites in the county for spotting water voles. The lower storey of the hide is fully accessible, and with nearby parking (thanks to the Tewinbury Hall Hotel) it can now provide wildlife watching opportunities for visitors of all abilities. The hide has been funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund – as part of our 'Wetlands for Water Voles and People' project.

[Take a guided video tour!](#)

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

### How to Get Here

#### Location

#### Directions

Please park in the first car park on the right of the drive to Tewinbury Farm Hotel. If necessary open the gates and close them behind you.

#### Public Transport Links

#### Walking Links

#### Map Reference

TL 265140

## Visitor Guide

### Size

3.1 hectares

### Access to site

Access around site

### Walking time

### Advice on what to wear/bring

A double decker hide is on the left of the drive to the Tewinbury Farm Hotel.

### Map of site (if available)