

Marloes Mere

Lying just to the west of the village of Marloes, Marloes Mere is owned by the National Trust. The NT Marloes Sands car park is at SM 779 081 – a charge of £4 from Easter to October. See map *here*.

The Mere is part of the NT's Trehill Farm, and consists of a large area of marsh with smaller areas of open water, including two deep irrigation ponds. Historically, observation of the Mere was hampered to an extent, especially in summer, by extensive vegetation. More recently, water levels have been raised significantly in Winter, which has appeared to attract more passing swans, geese and waders, as well as large numbers of wintering duck (mainly dabblers, but some diving species, mainly on the Northern irrigation pond). Very dry summers (such as 2013) are likely, however, to see most of the shallow areas dry out by August.

To the North and West of the Mere the Trehill Farm fields have a range of crops that can attract swans, geese and plovers, passerines and raptors in winter.

There are two hides to view the Mere and fields from:

1. The North (or 'old") hide is accessible down a short lane from the north road into the Car Park. It overlooks a large expanse of relatively shallow water.
2. The Britton Hide is accessible from the public footpath that runs south west from the car park just past the Youth Hostel (- see map). This hide has more sallow scrub around it, and has historically been better for warblers etc on passage, including Wales' 3rd Blackpoll Warbler in October 2008.
3. It is also well worth using a telescope to view the Mere from the car park, since this view (although facing West, and so difficult in afternoons), gives the best visibility into the largest irrigation pond, and other areas of water.

Wildfowl are present in good numbers in the winter and birds of prey such as Hen Harrier, Peregrine, Merlin and Short Eared Owl may be seen. In Winter/Spring, gulls feeding in nearby fields spend much time bathing in the Mere; these have included Iceland Gull.

In spring and summer there are warblers, and waders (especially Black-tailed Godwit), Marsh Harrier and Garganey occur regularly on migration.

Recent highlights have included Glossy Ibis (including an exceptionally long-staying individual in 2012-13), Green-winged Teal, Scaup and Ring-necked and Black Duck, as well regular small groups of Whooper Swans and White-fronted and Pink-footed Geese.

A walk from the Mere along the coast path towards the Deer Park and Martin's Haven should produce Chough, spectacular scenery and, in September/October Grey Seal pups on the rocky beaches.

See photos here

