

COUNTY: SUFFOLK      SITE NAME: SOTTERLEY PARK

DISTRICT: EAST SUFFOLK

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

Local Planning Authority: WAVENEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

National Grid Reference: TM 463853      Area: 121.2 (ha.) 299.5 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 156      1:10,000: TM 48 SE & NE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1971      Date of Last Revision: N/A

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1985      Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

SSSI boundary revised and site reduced in size. The site is listed in a 'Nature Conservation Review' (ed. by Dr Ratcliffe, Cambridge University Press).

Reasons for Notification:

Sotterley Park may occupy the site of an early medieval deer park but, if so, this is obscured by the present park which was laid out in the 18th Century, and which includes some ancient semi-natural woodland. The parkland trees support the richest epiphytic Lichen flora in East Anglia.

Many of the parkland trees are of huge size and great age. On these, ninety-two species of Lichen and fourteen species of Bryophytes have been recorded. The most notable of these include *Anaptychia ciliaris*, *Calicium abietinum*, *Chaenotheca brunneola*, *Normandia pulchella*, *Opegrapha sonedufera*, and *Ramalina fraxinea* and *Hechancha premnea*. The parkland pasture has been improved and contains few herb species of interest.

The surrounding woodlands shelter the park. Sotterley and Shepards Woods are remnants of a larger semi-natural Hornbeam-Ash wood incorporated into the park. However, substantial areas of this have been structurally modified over the years including the modern introduction of conifer stands. The woodland flora is typical for woods on light soils; Brambles *Rubus spp.* are abundant and primrose *Primula vulgaris*, Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* and Dog's Mercury *Mercurialis perennis* are frequent.