

COUNTY: SUFFOLK      SITE NAME: BUGG'S HOLE FEN, THELNETHAM

DISTRICT: ST EDMUNDSBURY

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

Local Planning Authority: ST EDMUNDSBURY DISTRICT COUNCIL

National Grid Reference: TM 006792      Area: 4.0 (ha.) 9.9 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 144      1:10,000: TM 07 NW

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

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1984      Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

A new site.

Reasons for Notification:

Bugg's Hole is a small, spring-fed calcareous fen situated in the valley of the Little Ouse River. A wide range of habitats occur from mown grassland on the driest soils to tall fen vegetation on shallow fen peats. The diversity of vegetation types is reflected in the richness of the flora which includes a number of uncommon species.

Bugg's Hole is situated on a shallow north-facing slope with an area of semi-improved mown grassland on the highest ground along the southern margin. There is a clear zonation of vegetation types on the slope. Below the mown area is a band of species-rich, fen grassland dominated by Red Fescue *Festuca rubra* with frequent Common Quaking Grass *Briza media*. Several uncommon species are found in this zone and include Common Butterwort *Pinguicula vulgaris*, Grass of Parnassus *Parnassia palustris*, Bog Pimpernel *Anagallis tenella*, Fragrant Orchid *Gymnadenia conopsea*, Marsh Helleborine *Epipactis palustris* and Adder's Tongue Fern *Ophioglossum vulgatum*.

A band of marshy grassland occurs below the fen grassland. It is dominated by tussocks of Purple Moor-Grass *Molinia caerulea* with abundant Blunt-flowered Rush *Juncus subnodulosus*. The conditions are wetter in this zone and typical species include Marsh Pennywort *Hydrocotyle vulgaris*, Southern Marsh Orchid *Dactylorhiza praetermissa*, Tormentil *Potentilla erecta* and Meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*.

Tall fen vegetation occupies the low-lying northern part of the site. The area is wet with a number of springs arising in the zone. Common Reed *Phragmites communis* and Saw Sedge *Cladium mariscus* are dominant with abundant Blunt-flowered Rush and Carnation Sedge *Carex panicea*. Several species are confined to the wet conditions including *Oenanthe fistulosa* and Lesser Water Parsnip *Berula erecta*.