

COUNTY: Norfolk

SITE NAME: STANLEY AND ALDER CARRS, ALDEBY

DISTRICT: south Norfolk

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

Local Planning Authority: Broads Authority

National Grid Reference: TM 434928

Area: 43.5 (ha) 107.4 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 134

1:10,000: TM 49 SW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1973

Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1986

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Part of the site is managed as a nature reserve by the Otter Trust.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Stanley and Alder Carrs lie adjacent to the River Waveney and form the only extensive area of regularly flooded alder carr woodland and fen in the Waveney Valley, the whole site acting as a “wash” at times of high river flows. The site supports a variety of plants characteristic of Broadland. Part has been set aside as a conservation area for otters.

The majority of the site is very wet, semi-mature carr woodland dominated by Alder *Alnus glutinosa* with White Willow *Salix alba*, Sallow *Salix cinerea* and some Ash. The ground flora is well-developed, dominated by nettle, with locally plentiful Meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, Yellow Iris *Iris pseudacorus*, Marsh Marigold *Caltha palustris*, Tufted Sedge *Carex elata* and Lesser Pond Sedge *Carex acutiformis*. Wild Hop *Humulus lupulus* forms a straggling liane and tussocks of the Greater Tussock Sedge *C. paniculata* occur locally.

Areas of open fen support a mixed vegetation of tall herbs and grasses. The dominant species is Reed *Phragmites australis* with Reed Canary Grass *Phalaris arundinacea*, Hemp Agrimony *Eupatorium cannabinum*, Purple Loosestrife *Lythrum salicaria*, Water Figwort *Scrophularia auriculata*, Gipsywort *Lycopus europaeus* and Water Mint *Mentha aquatica*. The uncommon Gold Dock *Rumex maritimus* also occurs.

The insect fauna is rich in species and the bird breeding community includes a regionally uncommon species.