

COUNTY: Norfolk

SITE NAME: ASLACTON PARISH LAND

DISTRICT: South Norfolk

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

Local Planning Authority: South Norfolk District Council

National Grid Reference: TM 156918      Area: 4.3 (ha) 10.6 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 144      1:10,000: TM 19 SE

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

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

Other Information:  
A new site.

### **Reasons for Notification:**

Alsacton Parish Land forms a characteristic example of a type of unimproved spring-line meadow which at one time was widely distributed in the valley of the River Tas. A range of inter-grading wet and dry grassland types are present and the flora which is rich, reflecting the variety of soil and habitat conditions, contains a number of uncommon and declining species.

Wet marshy grassland has developed at the spring-line, round seepage flushes and here the vegetation is dominated by Blunt-flowered Rush *Juncus subnodulosus* with Southern Marsh Orchid *Dactylorhiza praetermissa*, Marsh Helleborine *Epipactis palustris* and Marsh Marigold *Caltha palustris*.

Species-rich fen grassland occurs on less wet soils with the sward dominated by Tufted Hair-grass *Deschampsia cespitosa*, Yorkshire Fog *Holcus lanatus* and Purple Moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*. Uncommon plants are present including Adder's Tongue *Ophioglossum vulgatum*, Common Butterwort *Pinguicula vulgaris*, Marsh Arrow-grass *Triglochin palustris*, Yellow Rattle *Rhinanthus minor* and Fragrant Orchid *Gymnadenia conopsea* var. *densiflora*.

A short-sward calcareous type grassland has developed on the driest soils. Here Common Quaking Grass *Briza media* and Yorkshire Fog are dominant with frequent Pyramidal Orchid *Anacamptis pyramidalis*, Common Spotted Orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*, Common Twayblade *Listera ovata*, Hoary Plantain *Plantago media* and Burnet Saxifrage *Pimpinella saxifraga*.

Additional interest is provided by small areas of tall ungrazed vegetation with abundant Meadow Sweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, an area of alder carr in the valley bottom and patches of hawthorn scrub spread from tall hedgerows fringing the site.

A few pairs of Snipe breed in most years.