

COUNTY: Norfolk

SITE NAME: WARHAM CAMP

DISTRICT: North Norfolk

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

Local Planning Authority: North Norfolk District Council

National Grid Reference: TF 944409

Area: 5.04 (ha) 12.45 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 132

1:10,000: TF 94 SW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1961

Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1984

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

The site boundary has been amended by a small deletion.

Reasons for Notification:

Warham Camp is an Iron Age fort consisting of earthworks in the form of steep banks and ditches which support a diverse chalk grassland flora. Unimproved chalk grassland is now very rare in Norfolk and this site supports several locally uncommon plants. The site is also of some entomological interest with several species of butterfly that are associated with the chalkland plants.

The grassland is heavily grazed by cattle and rabbits and the resulting short turf is dominated by Sheep's Fescue *Festuca ovina*, Crested Hair-grass *Koeleria macrantha* and Quaking Grass *Briza media*. A wide variety of herb species are present. Among the more interesting are Common Rock-rose *Helianthemum nummularium*, Squinancywort *Asperula cynanchica*, Larger Wild Thyme *Thymus pulegioides*, Cowslip *Primula veris*, Dropwort *Filipendula vulgaris*, Felwort *Gentianella amarella* and Pyramidal Orchid *Anacamptis pyramidalis*.

Butterfly species include Common Blue *Polyommatus icarus*, and Brown Argus *Aricia agestis* and the uncommon Chalk Hill Blue *Lysandra coridon* has also been recorded.