

COUNTY: Norfolk

SITE NAME: BOUGHTON FEN

DISTRICT: West Norfolk

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

Local Planning Authority: West Norfolk District Council

National Grid Reference: TF 718015 Area: 15 (ha) 36 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 143 1:10,000: TF 70 SW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1973 Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1983 Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Reasons for Notification:

Boughton Fen is situated on shallow fen peats in the valley of a tributary of the River Wissey. A tall fen community covers much of the site and several interesting plants are present. Scrub is well represented and is used by breeding birds. The site is of entomological interest.

Reed *Phragmites australis* forms an almost pure stand where the water-table is highest at the southern end of the site. The remainder of the site is of variable wetness and a more diverse fen community has developed. Reed is again dominant, but Meadowseet *Filipendula ulmaria* and Great Willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum* are abundant. Other species present include Common Valerian *Valeriana officinalis*, Hemp Agrimony *Eupatorium cannabinum*, Angelica *Angelica sylvestris*, Purple Small-Reed *Calamagrostis canescens* and Reed Sweet-Grass *Glyceria maxima*.

On the highest ground, woodland has developed and is dominated by Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and Alder *Alnus glutinosa* with some Willow *Salix sp.* The ground flora consists of Meadowseet, Nettle *Urtica dioica* and Hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium*. Several areas of dense Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* scrub are present on the drier parts of the site.

Many uncommon species of moth have been recorded from the site, including the rare *Perizoma sagittaria*. Sedge, reed and grasshopper warblers all breed on the fen and otters are regular visitors.