

COUNTY: SUFFOLK      SITE NAME: ERISWELL LOW WARREN

DISTRICT: FOREST HEATH

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

Local Planning Authority: FOREST HEATH DISTRICT COUNCIL

National Grid Reference: TL 740793      Area: 6.6 (ha.) 16.3 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 143      1:10,000: TL 77 NW

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

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1986      Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Eriswell Low Warren is primarily a short sward of unimproved acidic grassland, based on shallow sandy soils, which grades into taller neutral grassland at the western edge. This site supports a variety of typical Breckland plants including five rarities. An area of Sand Sedge *Carex arenaria* is evident to the south-west of the site and the central part of the Warren consists of a grassland/lichen/bryophyte heath mosaic.

The acidic grassland is dominated by Sheep's Fescue *Festuca ovina* and Bent grasses *Agrostis* spp. and most of the floristic interest is contained here. The most frequently occurring herbs include *Rumex tenuifolius*, Biting Stonecrop *Sedum acre*, Smooth Hawk's-Beard *Crepis capillaris*, Field Woodrush *Luzula campestris*, Lady's Bedstraw *Galium verum*, Mouse-ear Hawkweed *Hieracium pilosella* and Breckland Thyme *Thymus serpyllum*. *Hypnum auresiforme* with the lichens *Cladonia arbuscula* and other *Cladonia* spp. dominate the lichen/bryophyte heath. The mosses *Brachythecium albicans*, *Polytrichum piliferum* and *Ceratodon purpureus* are also abundant.

The rare species to be found in this site include Purple-stem Cat's Tail *Phleum phleoides*, Spring Speedwell *Veronica verna*, Spanish Catchfly *Silene otites* and Perennial Knawel *Scleranthus perennis* sub sp. *Prostratus*.