

COUNTY: Norfolk

SITE NAME: DIDDLINGTON PARK LAKES

DISTRICT: Breckland

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

Local Planning Authority: Breckland District Council

National Grid Reference: TL 777963                      Area: 25.9 (ha) 62 (ac)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 144                      1:10,000: TL 79 NE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1973                      Date of Last Revision: N/A

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

Other Information:

The boundary is unchanged.

**Reasons for Notification:**

Didlington Park Lakes consist of three shallow lakes of artificial origin probably constructed early in the nineteenth century. The marginal and swamp vegetation is well developed and includes a number of locally uncommon species. The lakes are an important breeding site for wildfowl, and they also attract a large population during the winter months.

Aquatic plants are scarce in the lakes but include Yellow Water Lily *Nuphar lutea* and Stoneworts *Chara* spp. The marginal and swamp vegetation is extremely diverse however, and includes Reed *Phragmites australis*, Meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, Lesser Reedmace *Typha angustifolia*, Greater Tussock Sedge *Carex paniculata*, Sweet Flag *Acorus calamus*, Bogbean *Menyanthes trifoliata*, Yellow Iris *Iris pseudacorus* and Purple Loosestrife *Lythrum salicaria*. The lakes are surrounded by broad-leaved plantation and small areas of alder carr.

The site supports a sizeable breeding population of Gadwall. Teal, Mallard, Shoveler, Tufted Duck and Great Crested Grebe also use the lakes as a breeding site. The wintering population includes both Bewick and Whooper Swans. There is a small heronry on one of the islands.