

COUNTY: NORFOLK            SITE NAME: EDGEFIELD LITTLE WOOD

DISTRICT: NORTH NORFOLK

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

Local Planning Authority: North Norfolk District Council

National Grid Reference: TG 107342            Area: 5.5 (ha.) 13.6 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 133            1:10,000: TG 13 SW

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

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

Other Information:  
A new site.

Reasons for Notification:

Edgefield Little Wood is situated on acidic glacial sands and gravels on an outlier of the Cromer Ridge. The wood consists of lowland sessile-pedunculate oakwood which is very rare in Norfolk. The structure is coppice-with-standards but hazel *Corylus avellana* is absent and this type is rare in Britain.

Pedunculate and sessile oaks *Quercus robur*, *Q. petraea* have been coppiced in the past. Large, ancient stools are present and these have grown to the height of the standards so the wood resembles high forest. Other tree species occurring in the wood are Scot's pine *Pinus sylvestris*, larch *Larix decidua* and downy birch *Betula pubescens*. The shrub layer is mostly absent with a little rowan *Sorbus aucuparia* and holly *Ilex aquifolium*. The ground flora is dominated by bracken with one small area of Bluebells *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*. Other species which occur are heather *Calluna vulgaris*, wood anemone *Anemone nemorosa*, wood sage *Teucrium scorodonia*, creeping soft-grass *Holcus mollis* and mosses.

Ancient boundary banks surround the wood and the woodland is of ancient, probably primary, origin.